

## Cuomo gets rare fight from Wall Street car czar



**FILE** - In this Nov. 1, 2010 file photo, Andrew Cuomo speaks during a rally in New York. Cuomo, New York's governor-elect, and Steven Rattner, who led the Obama administration's restructuring of the auto industry, both have muscular credentials in Democratic politics.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

By DAVID B. CARUSO,  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his four years as New York's attorney general, Andrew Cuomo had his way with Wall Street, muscling banks and bankers into paying fines, making reforms and eating crow for their errors during the financial crisis.

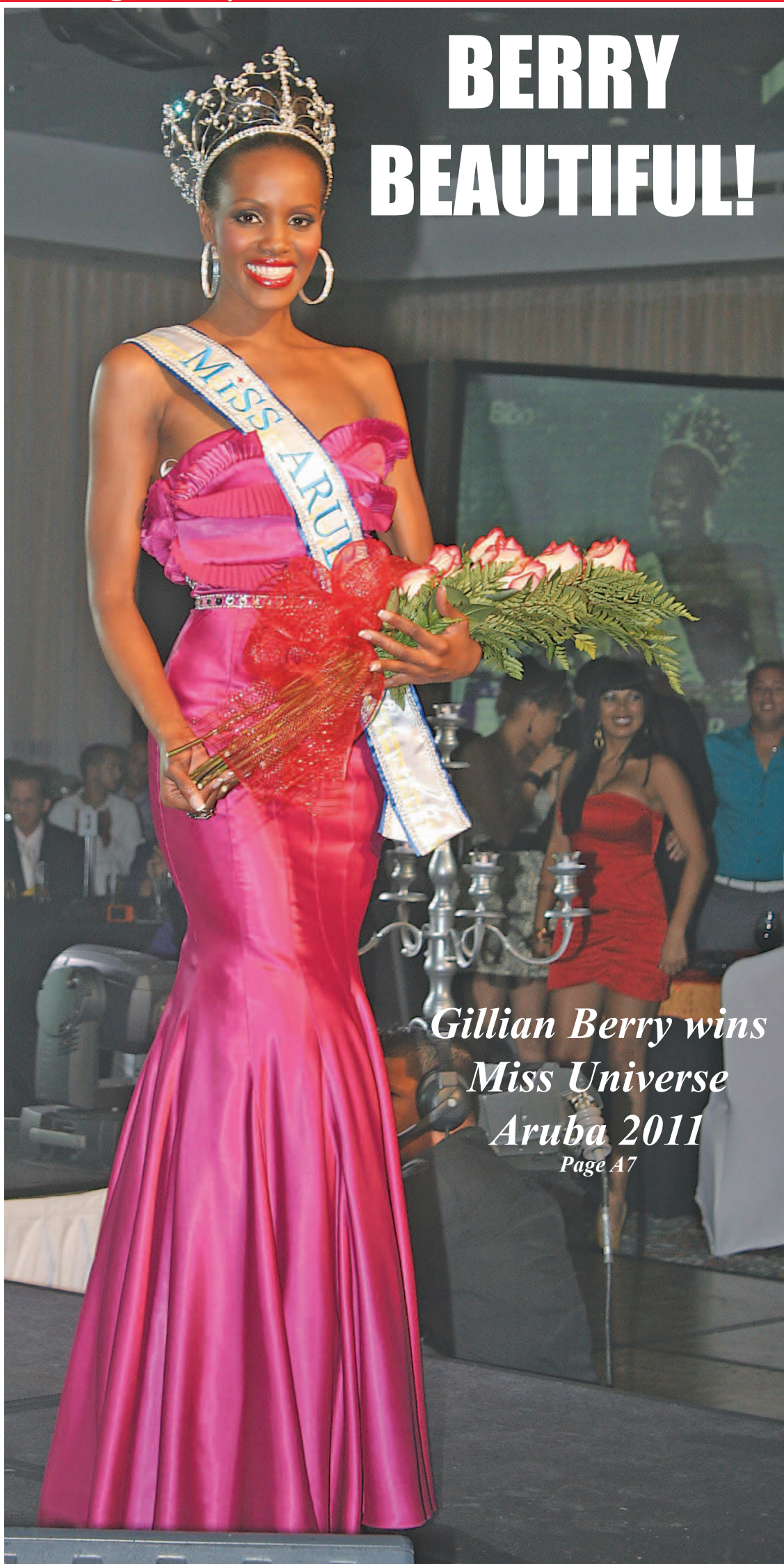
Few bothered to fight back. Most figured it was smarter to take their lumps than risk a public showdown, even in instances where Cuomo appeared to lack clear authority to investigate or regulate.

But finally, Cuomo has a battle on his hands — just as he is leaving office.

Steven Rattner, the financier who led the Obama administration's restructuring of the auto industry and is connected to the city's most rich and powerful people, called Cuomo a bully and said he'd see him in court after the two men failed to reach a deal to resolve civil wrongdoing charges in an influence-peddling scandal.

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## BERRY BEAUTIFUL!



*Gillian Berry wins  
Miss Universe  
Aruba 2011*

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## RAIN SURFING

ORANJESTAD — Aruba has seen sunnier days, but it doesn't slow the local residents down from having fun in the rain. Pictured here is an avid windsurfer that decided it would be just as fun to windsurf in the street than to go to the beach yesterday.

Aruba is truly "One Happy Island" rain or shine and a little bit of natural shade is always appreciated. The weather forecast remains the same for the next couple of days, but either way, there is still plenty to do. Everyone says, "the rainiest day on Aruba is still a better day than back home in the winter." So enjoy the great times and hope for some sun for later on in the week. ☐

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# Lobster ports create Christmas trees — from traps



In this photo taken on Dec. 2, 2010, Albert Carver, looks at a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree made of lobster traps on Beals Island, Maine. Some of the top lobster-fishing ports in New England are claiming bragging rights about who has the biggest and best Christmas tree created from lobster traps. The groups that put up the trees say they draw attention to the ports' maritime heritage, bring people together and raise money for good causes. The tree in Beals helps raises money for the Beals-Jonesport Fourth of July festivities and the one in Gloucester benefits a nonprofit devoted to the arts.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

By CLARKE CANFIELD,  
Associated Press  
PORTLAND, Maine —  
Lobster fishermen are known  
for bragging about who has  
the fastest boat or the biggest

pickup truck.  
Now, some of the top lobster-  
fishing ports in New England  
are claiming bragging rights  
about who has the biggest and  
best Christmas tree created

from lobster traps. As the holiday season gets into full swing, a new lobster trap tree in eastern Maine is stirring the pot.

Gloucester, Mass., started the trap-to-tree tradition 12 years ago, and Rockland, Maine, followed five years later. Both are threatening to be upstaged this year by the small lobstering town of Beals, Maine, which is getting into the act with a monster tree that stands 50 feet tall.

Albert Carver, a seafood distributor who helped spearhead Beals' upstart effort, couldn't resist taking a poke at Rockland and Gloucester.

"They're nice beginner trees," Carver said when asked about the trees in Rockland and Gloucester. "I mean, they are a little small."

The groups that put up the trees say they draw attention to the ports' maritime heritage, bring people together and raise money for good causes. The tree in Beals helps raises money for the Beals-Jonesport

Fourth of July festivities and the one in Gloucester benefits a nonprofit devoted to the arts. In Rockland, the tree is major fundraiser for Rockland Maine Street Inc., a nonprofit that oversees the tree and sells \$50 raffle tickets for a chance to win 100 traps.

When it comes to lobster, nobody tops Maine, where fishermen last year harvested 78 million pounds of the state's signature seafood. Massachusetts fishermen caught about 11.6 million pounds.

Despite that gap, Gloucester was the first fishing port to erect a towering tree-shaped pile of traps adorned with lights and lobster buoys as ornaments. The downtown tree is about 30 feet high with several hundred traps topped with a 5-foot star made out of lobster trap wire.

Rockland, which is Maine's lobster capital, followed with a tree of its own with traps manufactured by a local lobster trap company. This year's tree

is 38 feet tall with 152 traps, more than 125 lobster buoys, 480 feet of garland and 3,000 white lights, topped with a 5-foot fiberglass lobster. Last month, a new trap tree appeared.

At 50 feet high with a base 27 1/2 feet across, the tree in Beals is the biggest of them all. It's topped with a mannequin dressed as a fisherwoman wearing yellow oilskins, looking out to sea as if waiting for her fisherman husband to return home.

The Beals tree may be the biggest, but the Rockland tree is lit with spotlights that illuminate it from the inside out, and is built using a "secret" engineering formula, said Lorain Francis, executive director of Rockland Main Street Inc.

Besides, the Discovery Channel sent a film crew to Rockland — not Gloucester or Beals — to take footage of the tree for a future episode on extreme Christmas trees, she said.




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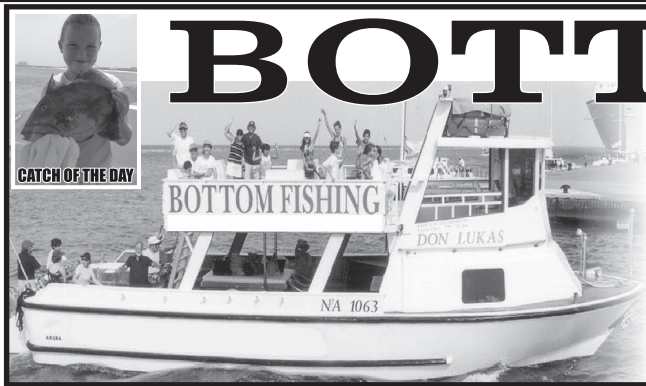


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## Mourners gather for Wis. hostage taker's funeral

Menominee, Mich. — Photographs of a happy teen who camped, canoed and fished greeted mourners as they gathered Sunday for the funeral of a 15-year-old Wisconsin boy who held his social studies class hostage before shooting himself. None of the hostages were injured.

The stage in a school auditorium in Menominee, Mich., where the funeral was to be held Sunday afternoon, was decorated with a tent and canoe. Menominee is just across the river from Marinette, Wis., where Sam Hengel held 26 classmates and his teacher hostage for six hours Monday. Hengel's Boy Scout and tae kwon do uniforms also decorated the stage, along with martial arts trophies and a Green Bay Packers jersey bearing AJ Hawk's No. 50. A slide show showing Hengel hiking in the woods with his family played before the funeral started.

Those gathered left messages on a board in the lobby, where photographs of Hengel as a baby, holding a fish and on a canoe trip were on display.

Hengel's brother Ben wrote, "I will always miss you, brother." Why Hengel took his class hostage remains a mystery. Other students and his teacher have said he was well-liked and had many friends.

The standoff began Monday afternoon when Hengel returned to his sixth-hour Western Civilization class from a bathroom break. He had two semi-automatic pistols and a backpack jammed with more than 200 rounds of ammunition and a pair of knives.

Students and police said he immediately fired three shots, blasting a hole in a wall and tearing apart a film projector. Students talked to him about everything from hunting and fishing to his favorite movies in an attempt to keep him calm.

No one else in the school apparently recognized the sound of the shots as gunfire, and Hengel told the teacher to post a note on the door telling seventh-period students to report to the library. As a result, no one realized the class was in danger until about a half-hour after school ended, when a man came to the school office

Students arrive for class at Marinette High School with police standing guard outside Wednesday morning Dec. 1, 2010 in Marinette, Wis. School was canceled on Tuesday after 15-year-old student Sam Hengel held 23 students and one teacher hostage at the school on Monday. Hengel died Tuesday morning of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

(AP Photo/Mike Roemer)

looking for his daughter.

Principal Corry Lambie determined the last class the girl attended was Western Civilization and went to the room to find the door locked. When Lambie unlocked the door, Hengel pointed his gun at him and told him to leave. Hengel allowed the girl to go with Lambie.

The standoff dragged on for four more hours, with teacher Valerie Burd acting as a go-between for Hengel and police. A SWAT team stormed the room after Hengel fired three shots about 8 p.m., destroying the classroom phone and hitting a computer. Hengel shot himself as officers reached him.

He died Tuesday morning. □

## Trial to begin in boy's death at Mass. gun expo

By DENISE LAVOIE,  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON — Eight-year-old Christopher Bizilj — 4-foot-3 and 66 pounds — stepped up to the firing range to shoot an Uzi as his father and 11-year-old brother watched from a few feet away.

As Christopher fired the 9mm micro submachine gun at a pumpkin, the weapon flipped backward and shot him in the head. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Prosecutors brought manslaughter charges against the gun club where the machine gun shoot took place, two men who supplied the weapons and a small-town police chief who owns a company that sponsored the gun fair.

On Monday, the first trial begins in what is expected to be a heart-wrenching recounting of Christopher's death on Oct. 26, 2008.

Edward Fleury, the former police chief in the tiny western Massachusetts town of Pelham, has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter as well as four counts of furnishing a machine gun to a minor.

Fleury was charged because he owned COPS

Firearms & Training, which co-sponsored the gun fair at the Westfield Sportsman's Club. He also hired the two men who supplied the guns and ran the shooting range portion of the event.

Fleury's lawyer, Rosemary Curran Scapicchio, says there is no way Fleury could have anticipated that a child would die when he co-sponsored the event.

The two men who supplied the guns — Carl Giuffre and Domenico Spano — had conducted the same gun shoot at the Westfield club for seven years without incident.

Fleury's lawyer also argues that prosecutors should have called Christopher's father, Dr. Charles Bizilj, to testify before the grand jury that indicted Fleury. Charles Bizilj brought his two sons to the machine gun shoot and gave them permission to fire the Uzi.

"The prosecutor urged the grand jury to find that Chief Fleury disregarded a probable risk of death of a child. However, the child's father did not believe that allowing his son to fire the machine gun would create a probable risk of death," Scapicchio wrote. □



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**FILE** - In this file photo of Oct. 1, 2010, Andrew Cuomo responds to questions during a news conference in New York during his gubernatorial campaign. Cuomo, New York's governor elect, and Steven Rattner, who led the Obama administration's restructuring of the auto industry, both have muscular credentials in Democratic politics. But now the two men are at each other's throats in a bitter feud, prompted by an investigation of an influence peddling scandal.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

## CUOMO

*Continued from Front Page*

For months, the two had been at odds over what kind of penalty Rattner should pay for being among a number of money managers who tried to curry favor with state officials while trying to land lucrative government pension fund investment deals in 2004 and 2005.

The juiciest allegation was that he helped the brother of a state

official get a DVD distribution deal for his stalled film project. Whatever negotiations the two sides had finally failed this autumn, when Cuomo — as he campaigned to become governor — demanded that Rattner pay a far stiffer fine than anyone else involved in the case.

When Rattner resisted — as he promoted his book about overhauling the auto industry — the attorney general got a

chance to wield the stick he often brandishes, but rarely uses. He sued Rattner for \$26.2 million and sought to have him banned from the securities industry for life.

At that point, Rattner, who had settled identical allegations with the SEC for \$6.2 million, abandoned the safe course, first saying in a press release that he “wouldn’t be bullied” into paying a fine he considered extortive, and then accusing Cuomo of behavior unbecoming to the state’s highest elected official.

“Over the past 15 months ... I have been subjected to every kind of threat of prosecution and punishment known to man practically,” he told journalist Charlie Rose — a personal friend — in a program broadcast Nov. 22.

“I don’t think as a prosecutor you should let emotion get in the way. You should deal with facts. The SEC looked at facts and came to a set of conclusions. Andrew Cuomo chose instead to rely on his emotions.” He added, “This is not the kind of behavior I think we want out of an attorney general or a governor.”

Cuomo hasn’t commented, but spokesman Richard Bamberger said anyone familiar with the facts of the case would find Rattner’s claim that he had done nothing wrong, “ridiculous.” In calling Cuomo a bully, Rattner was merely repeating a charge that has been lobbed against New York’s governor-elect since his earliest days in politics.

As an aide to his father, Mario, Cuomo was nicknamed “The

Prince of Darkness” for serving as the campaign’s enforcer. Wall Street types have grumbled about Cuomo’s sharp elbows, too, but not publicly — in part because that for all his toughness, Cuomo also had a reputation for being willing to settle his regulatory actions quickly, on terms far less expensive than a court fight. Even federal officials have had issues with Cuomo’s aggressiveness.

In a report, the SEC’s inspector general revealed that the commission delayed its fraud lawsuit against Goldman Sachs by a day to avoid stealing thunder from a Cuomo announcement of a settlement in the pension fund kickback case. SEC Chairwoman Mary Schapiro said she was worried Cuomo would be “very upset” if the commission trumped his announcement.

As attorney general, the tough-guy approach served Cuomo well. It is unclear how it will fare in Albany. The last crusading attorney general to take the office, Eliot Spitzer, bragged that he was a political “steamroller,” but his style as an intimidator doomed his initiatives, even before he lost his office in a prostitution scandal.

Cuomo’s legal battle with Rattner is filled with subtleties about where to draw the line between legal influence-building and outright corruption.

Regulators said that in addition to the DVD distribution deal, Rattner’s firm, The Quadrangle Group, also agreed to pay \$1 million in unnecessary

“placement agent” fees to the state comptroller’s top campaign aide.

Neither side has an easy argument, and while Cuomo’s office and the Securities and Exchange Commission have filed civil suits and criminal charges against several financial advisers and state officials, everyone involved in the matter has sought to keep it out of a courtroom.

Financial firms collectively paid more than \$150 million in penalties to put the matter behind them. Everyone facing a criminal charge has pleaded guilty, though usually to lesser counts unlikely to carry jail time. It is unclear how much Cuomo will be engaged in the case going forward.

In a matter of weeks, he will turn over the attorney general’s office to Eric Schneiderman, another Democrat.

The big question may be whether Schneiderman is willing to break from Cuomo’s view and adopt the more moderate stance taken by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Rattner, a former New York Times reporter who made a fortune on Wall Street and counts his former newspaper’s publisher and billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg among his closest friends, has the money to fight indefinitely if he chooses.

“I am more in a fighting mode today than I was two weeks ago,” he told The Wall Street Journal in an interview Nov. 29, although he added that he was ready to settle at any time — for a fine within reason. □

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# Obama pardons 9 people

By ERICA WERNER,  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has granted the first pardons of his presidency, to nine people convicted of crimes including possessing drugs, counterfeiting and even mutilating coins. No one well-known was on the list, and some of the crimes dated back decades or had drawn little more than a slap on the wrist in the first place — such as the Pennsylvania man sentenced in 1963 to probation and a \$20 fine for mutilating coins. The mutilation of coins occurred when a young Marine made dimes out of pennies, cutting the lip off, to use the coins in vending machines.

The White House declined to give details on the cases or comment on why these particular people were selected by a president who previously had only pardoned Thanksgiving turkeys.

In an interview Friday, Ronald Lee Foster of Beaver Falls, Pa., said he got into trouble nearly a half-century ago when as a young Marine he whittled coins to use in vending machines.

“Well, we were only making only \$82 a month,” he said. “We were using them in the washing machines, the dryers, the cigarette machines and the pop machines on the base in our barracks.” Foster, now 66, said he wasn’t aware that he even had a felony conviction on his record until he applied for a gun permit in Pennsylvania five years ago and was denied. After getting out of the Marines in 1966, Foster returned to Pennsylvania and spent 27

years as a supervisor at a ceiling plant and also served on the local zoning board. He also spent 35 years as a volunteer firefighter.

He was told about the pardon earlier Friday by his lawyer, who applied for it on his behalf about 18 months ago.

Presidential pardons often come in the holiday season toward year’s-end, but they can sometimes be extremely controversial, such as when Bill Clinton pardoned fugitive financier Marc Rich at the end of his presidency.

President George W. Bush drew heat for commuting the sentence of I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney’s former chief of staff, in the case of the 2003 leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame’s identity. But Bush rejected Cheney’s vigorous urging that he later pardon Libby as well.

“The president was moved by the strength of the applicants’ post-conviction efforts at atonement, as well as their superior citizenship and individual achievements in the years since their convictions,” said White House spokesman Reid Cherlin. The White House announced the pardons Friday as Obama was in the air on the way home from a surprise visit to Afghanistan. Obama has received 551 pardon petitions in the course of his presidency, of which he’s denied 131, according to the Justice Department. Another 265 petitions were closed without presidential action. In addition to Foster, the people pardoned were:

-James Bernard Banks, of Liberty, Utah, sentenced to two years of probation in

1972 for illegal possession of government property.

-Russell James Dixon, of Clayton, Ga., sentenced to two years of probation in 1960 for a liquor law violation.

-Laurens Dorsey, of Syracuse, N.Y., sentenced in 1998 to five years of probation and \$71,000 in restitution for conspiracy to defraud by making false statements to the Food and Drug Administration.

-Timothy James Gallagher, of Navasota, Texas, sentenced in 1982 to three years of probation for cocaine possession and conspiracy to distribute.

-Roxane Kay Hettinger, Powder Springs, Ga., sentenced in 1986 to 30 days in jail and three years of probation for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

-Edgar Leopold Kranz Jr., of Minot, N.D., who received 24 months of confinement and a pay reduction for cocaine use, adultery and bouncing checks.

-Floretta Leavy, of Rockford, Ill., sentenced in 1984 to 366 days in prison and three years of parole for drug offenses.

-Scoey Lathaniel Morris, of Crosby, Texas, sentenced in 1991 to three years of probation and \$1,200 restitution for counterfeiting offenses. □

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U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, left, looks on as President Barack Obama makes a statement on the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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# Mystery surrounds man in publicist killing



This photo obtained by the Associated Press on Friday Dec.3, 2010, shows Harold Smith, who killed himself just as police converged on him on Wed., Dec. 1, 2010. Smith was a person of interest in the slaying of prominent Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen.

(AP Photo)

By JOHN ROGERS  
 THOMAS WATKINS,  
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – He was named a “person of interest” in the killing of a Hollywood

publicist, and he shot himself to death as detectives tried to question him — but police say it’s still not clear if he played any role in the murder.

What is certain about Harold Martin Smith is that he was an armed career criminal possibly looking at another stretch in prison.

Documents obtained Friday by The Associated Press reveal that Smith, who acquaintances say had boasted of killing Ronni Chasen for money, was a convicted, two-strikes felon with a long criminal history. Smith, 43, had most recently been released from prison in 2007 after a robbery conviction. He was discharged from parole last year and had told neighbors at the seedy Los Angeles apartment building where he lived that he would never return to prison.

Beverly Hills police detectives, armed with a

search warrant, approached him Wednesday in the shabby lobby of the Harvey Apartments, told him to take his hands out of his pockets and said they were there to talk about Chasen’s killing. Smith pulled a gun from one of those pockets and shot himself in the head.

Police say it’s possible Smith had no connection to the murder.

“At this time, it is unknown if this individual was involved in the Chasen homicide,” Lt. Tony Lee said in a statement Friday.

He reiterated that Smith was a “person of interest” rather than a suspect. He said undercover officers were following a tip from the Fox program “America’s Most Wanted” when they approached him.

However, as a convicted felon with a gun, Smith likely knew he was in trouble no matter what he told police, criminal experts say.

“Here’s Harold talking all this

(expletive). Cops are standing there looking at him, he’s thinking, I didn’t kill Ronni but I’m standing here with a gun in my pocket,” speculated private investigator John Nazarian, a former sheriff’s deputy who has investigated homicide cases. “He’s going to go back to prison, for life probably. So he just decided to check out.”

A third felony conviction could have brought a life sentence for Smith under California’s three-strikes law. Court records show Smith, a transient, was no stranger to Beverly Hills, where Chasen was shot to death on Nov. 16. He was arrested for robberies in that city and neighboring West Hollywood and sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1998.

One of the victims testified in court that he grabbed her in a bear hug and demanded her purse but fled with just her portable music player and headphones when she

screamed and struggled.

His criminal record dates back at least 25 years to 1985, when he was convicted of burglary in New York.

He moved to California in 1991, was arrested again for burglary and pleaded guilty. Three years later, he was charged in an Oregon robbery but it could not be immediately determined if he was convicted.

He was charged with marijuana possession and loitering last year in Manhattan Beach, Calif., and pleaded guilty to the latter charge. A warrant for his arrest was issued after he failed to return to court in September to pay his \$160 fine.

Chasen, 64, was shot multiple times as she drove through Beverly Hills in her Mercedes from a party after attending the premiere of the movie “Burlesque.” She was promoting the film’s soundtrack for an Oscar nomination. □



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# Aruba versus the Universe



*December 22nd Stellaris  
Casino Re-Launch  
Celebration*

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PALM BEACH -. With a transformation of a brand new casino, Marriott's Stellaris Casino increased the current promotion of 1,000,000 florins to 1,500,000 florins. The promotion started the 1st of November, where casino players with a player's card can accumulate points playing on slot machines and tables. Every 20 point on slots or 25 points on tables can be redeemed to respective tickets for the promotion.

On December 22nd, Stellaris Casino invites you to celebrate the re-launch of the redesigned casino starting at 8:30 PM in style.

Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening and live entertained will be performed by local band NBO.

The drawings of "your chance to win 1,500,000 florins" promotion will start at 8:30 PM.

The casino will announce ten lucky winners, who have a chance to win the grand prize of 1,500,000. The minimum cash prize starts at 10,000 florins and can accumulate up to the biggest amount of this year: 1,500,000 florins.

The Stellaris Casino looks forward to see you at the re-launch celebration party on December 22nd. More information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on [www.stellariscasino.com](http://www.stellariscasino.com). For the most recent updates and happenings in this casino, become a fan of Stellaris Casino on Facebook. □



PALM BEACH – On December 4th, 2010 at the Aruba Radisson Resort & Casino, Miss Gillian Berry was crowned Miss Universe Aruba 2011. She will represent Aruba in Miss Universe 2011 to match her natural beauty and charm with others around the universe. Miss Universe 2011, the 60th edition of the Miss Universe pageant, will probably be held in Nha Trang, Vietnam. Miss Universe 2010, Ximena Navarrete of Mexico will crown her successor at the end of the event.

The Miss World Aruba 2011 went to Helen Thiel who was also crowned on the this past Saturday night at Radisson Aruba Resort and Casino.

Thiel will compete in Miss World 2011. The other runner-ups include Alicia Moerman, Ghislaine Geerman and Vivian Chow. Miss Congeniality was awarded to Helen Thiel and Miss Photogenic to Giselle Fingal.

Congratulations to the most beautiful woman on Aruba for their fantastic representation of Aruba, home to the most beautiful people in the world. □





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*At the Third Tri-Annual Managers' Outing*

# Miriam Courtar recognized as leader



PALM BEACH — The leadership of Miriam Courtar at the helm of the Housekeeping Department of La Cabana Beach & Racquet

Club was recognized on Saturday, December 4th, 2010, at the Third Tri-Annual Managers Outing, which took place at the Eagle Bowling

Palace on Sasakiweg. General Manager Joe Najjar had the distinct pleasure of thanking her for her high performance and for



successfully driving guest satisfaction scores up at his resort, by delivering zero defect rooms in collaboration with her team of top professionals. Miriam who is the wind beneath the wings of the Housekeeping Department, leads her hard-working

colleagues through their significant work-load with an attitude of gratitude and with endless positive energy. Following the short award ceremony, the management team then bowled the night away, pitching Managers against Supervisors for top scores. □





At Amazonia Churrascaria

# Bibiana Mackintosh-Vrolijk celebrates her 68th birthday



PALM BEACH – Family members and friends celebrated Meechi's big birthday at Amazonia Churrascaria, over delicious dinner. Her husband, children, grandchild, sister, brother in law, nephew and girlfriend,

wish her many more years on happiness, and many more festive family dinners at Amazonia Churrascaria. May the good Lord continue to grant her good health and high energy! ☐

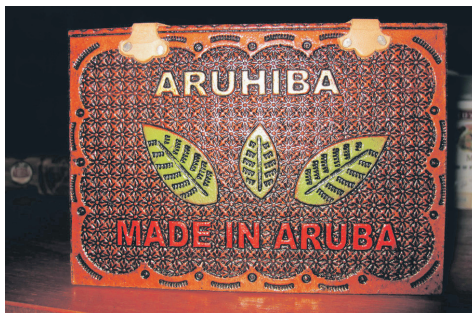
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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# High Tea guests enjoy top fashion



ORANJESTAD - Ronchi de Cuba's fantastic Holiday Fashion preview coincided with De Suikertuin's sampling of its Christmas High Tea menu last Sunday afternoon. The event was a major success and delighted the many guests, who sipped mimosas and drank tea or champagne. As they nibbled on Christmas ham with pineapple, sampled pumpkin soup and brochettes, turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes, ayaca pie, potato salad, scones, carrot cake and chocolate cake, the superb Aruba Model Search models paraded through the festively and el-

egantly decorated restaurant: they showed what is in high style. The so-called 'statement jewelry', the hottest thing in fantasy jewelry of the moment, was provided by Beauty and the Beast. The exclusive designs of Ronchi's Trash label drew oohs and aahs from his captive audience. The lovely color combinations of the clothes stood out, but the designs in solid colors, with the accent on design, cut and style were breathtaking; the festive Holiday evening wear, in particular the cocktail dresses, was amazing. The men's lines showed some new and attractive



new color combinations and mixing and matching. Es-



pecially the suits were very good indeed. De Suikertuin was once again the perfect place for an intimate showing such as this Holiday preview: its simple, unique Christmas decorations and the creative eye

for detail of owner Willeke make the ancient mansion in the Wilhelminastraat into a true gem.

Add to that a very tasty menu and options for Christmas functions and the choice should be easy. □





# PwC Annual Bowling Tournament crowns new King & Queen



ORANJESTAD – The PwC bowling night, an annual event, pitched four teams against each other at the Eagle Bowling Palace. Dos Equis, the Rare Spares, Desert Strike, and the Bowling Stones had fun battling each other for the royal titles. At the end of an exciting full



round Mitchell Reyes was crowned PwC Bowling King 2010, while Gillian Spellen claimed the PwC Bowling Queen crown.

Team Dos Equis, snatched the undefeated Team of the Year title, with team members Herbert van Elferen, Michell Reyes, Emely Maduro, Robert Geerman, Edmar Rincones and Ana Alvarez.

The bowlers re-fueled and re-energized with lovely dinner at Moomba Beach, including a fun award ceremony, in honor of the winners.

PwC Dutch Caribbean has seven partners and four offices, one office on each of the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Martin. In the Aruba office, motivated and talented tax lawyers and tax consultants work hard to provide the firm's clients with quality assurance, tax, and advisory services. As a member of PwC International, the Aruba branch adheres to the highest professional and ethical standards, pledging a guarantee of quality service and customer satisfaction. PwC Aruba is making a significant impact on the



way business is carried out in various sectors of the island, including the hospitality and entertainment industries. The firm also takes excellent

care of its employees, who enjoy company family days, holiday celebrations, and an annual bowling tournament, among other activities. □



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## HUMAN HINTS

# Witness

We all go thru trauma strong enough to forever change our lives. Although we each react differently, certain conditions can help us grow stronger thru traumatic times. A witness to personal trauma can turn a life long limitation into a strength tempered in the playing field of life.

A witness to personal trauma is just that, someone who sees what you're going thru. A witness is there for you even though they can't diminish your trauma. A witness watches you go thru a traumatic experience.

The idea of a witness isn't limited to trauma. Life is more fun and alive when we share it. We like to play together. Witnessing each other's play adds another dimension of enjoyment and intensity to the experience. We can still have fun alone, the joy just comes from a different place.

If you want to make a difference in someone's life, be their witness. Watch them and interact with them as they go thru life. Don't judge them, just watch them, as hard as it may be. Witnessing someone's good times and bad, empowers you both in ways we cannot understand.

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### ~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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# WikiLeaks Secrets: Is Gossip Good?

## Stephanie Pappas

The latest WikiLeaks document dump made public thousands of U.S. embassy cables, revealing decades of behind-the-scenes diplomatic chatter. But it turns out diplomats aren't so diplomatic in their off-hours: Between references to North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il's flab and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's "wild parties," the cables described Kazakhstan's prime minister's animated disco-dancing and dished about the "voluptuous" Ukrainian nurse who apparently accompanies Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi everywhere.

If these assessments seem more high school than high diplomacy, it's no surprise. Research has shown that gossip is rampant among close-knit groups, from junior-high students to State Department diplomats. And while some types of gossip can be destructive, social scientists argue that talking about others can help us deal with important social information.

"Groups, much against the prevailing view of them, do have a quest to squeeze the truth out of things," Charles Walker, a psychologist at St. Bonaventure University in New York, told LiveScience. "It's kind of informal news-making... People don't just try to titillate one another."

### The gossip that binds

Although it's often frowned upon, gossip is rarely false, Walker said. Nor is it always malicious. Walker's studies have found that less than 10 percent of gossip out there is deliberately false "scandal gossip." The rest is usually an attempt to get at the truth and sort out social norms in the group, he said. (In contrast, Walker said, rumors are usually false and often deal with broad, uncontrollable fears.)

Some researchers have argued that the tendency toward jawing about our neighbors is rooted in our evolutionary past. In his book "Grooming, Gossip, and the Evolution of Language," (Harvard University Press, 1998), Oxford anthropologist Robin Dunbar argues that gossip and language evolved as primate groups got too large to bond by grooming. In other words, instead of picking lice off each other, humans buy "US Weekly."

That's not to say gossip is all sunshine and bonding (though Walker noted there is a subcategory of gossip, called "veneration gossip," devoted entirely to saying nice things about people). When people don't feel that anyone is keeping track of their words, they're more likely to engage in negative gossip, Walker has found. The highest levels of negative gossip top out around 60 percent to 70 percent of all gossip, he said. People become more positive when asked to write their gossip down or to say it into a tape recorder.

### Checks and balances

Either way, though, it's the negative stuff that seems to spread. In one study, Walker played the role of rumormonger, releasing two false stories on his university campus. One story was a positive "wish rumor" - the kind of story

people wish were true. In this case, it was that more university restaurants would be accepting student ID cards as payment. The second story was a negative "dread rumor" about higher penalties for breaking dorm visitation rules.

A few weeks after releasing the rumors to two equivalently sized groups, Walker and his team called up students they knew hadn't heard the stories firsthand. The question they hoped to answer: Which rumor would spread the fastest and reach the most ears? The answer: Bad news really does travel faster than good.

"This is part of a well-known phenomenon in psychology," Walker said. "For some reason, bad is worse than good is good. Bad is more powerful."

But even negative gossip isn't always a bad thing, Walker said, as long as it's true.

"Bill Clinton did, in fact, have sexual relationships with Monica Lewinsky, and just by talking about it, you are not harming Bill Clinton," Walker said. "The group has to digest something like this... People have a right to talk."

Contrary to childhood games of "Telephone" (where a phrase or piece of gossip is passed from person to person), gossip actually gets closer to the truth as it spreads, Walker said. Unlike Telephone, the world is full of checks and balances.

"Because of those checks and balances, there does tend to be a purification process that hearsay goes through," Walker said. "Falsehoods in it tend to get dropped out, and the truth of it tends to be more concentrated."

### Wikileaks = Facebook?

For the subjects of the Wikileaks gossip, the chatter will likely have "rather minimal long-term effects," said Gary Alan Fine, a sociologist at Northwestern University in Illinois and author of "The Global Grapevine: Why Rumors of Terrorism, Immigration and Trade Matter" (Oxford University Press, 2010). Fine, who has studied historical reputation-building, said the dish would likely be used by those in politics to try to shape reputations. However, he said, most people don't much care "what the foreign minister of Turkey is doing in his spare time." (Fine chose that position as an arbitrary example, but Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu did in fact make an appearance in the leaked documents. One memo called him "exceptionally dangerous.")

The leaks will likely be more salient for those in the diplomatic community, Fine said, because "gossip only matters when you know someone either personally or by reputation." The officials in the documents may not have known how much surveillance of their personal lives was going on in diplomatic circles, Fine said, but they certainly knew they were being discussed.

"It's like high school," Fine said. "Everyone knows that everyone is talking about each other, and that's okay. But if that talk suddenly gets put on Facebook, then people have to deal with the reality of the talk they always knew existed." □



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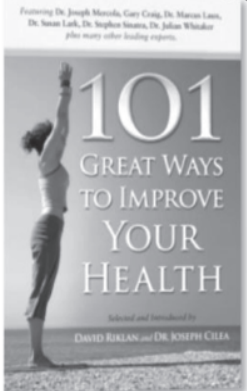
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# Iran claims nuke advance ahead of talks

ALI AKBAR DAREINI  
GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran delivered a resolute message Sunday on the eve of talks with six world powers: We're mining our own uranium now, so there is no stopping our nuclear ambitions.

The Islamic Republic said it has produced its first batch of locally mined uranium ore for enrichment, making it independent of foreign countries for a process the West fears is geared toward producing nuclear arms.

No matter the U.N. sanctions over the program, "our nuclear activities will proceed and they will witness greater achievements in the future," Iranian nuclear chief Ali Salehi told state-run Press TV. Western officials downplayed the announcement, saying it had been expected and that Iran did not have enough ore to maintain the large-scale enrichment program that Tehran says it is building as a source of fuel for an envisaged network of nuclear reactors.

"Given that Iran's own supply of uranium is not enough for a peaceful nuclear energy program, this calls into further question Iran's intentions and raises additional concerns at a time when Iran needs to address the concerns of the international community," said Mike Hammer, spokesman of the U.S. National Security Council.

Sunday's announcement makes clear that Iran does not consider uranium enrichment to be up for discussion at the talks beginning Monday in Geneva. Tehran is determined to expand the program instead of scrapping it as the U.N. Security Council demands.

Expectations for the talks had been low even before the announcement, with Iran saying it is prepared to discuss nuclear issues only in the context of global disarmament. Officials from some of the six powers have said they would be pleased if negotiations yielded no more than agreement to meet at a later date to explore common themes.

The ultimate aim of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany is to commit Tehran to give up enrichment because of its potential use in making nuclear arms.

The talks in Geneva — the first in over a year — are meant to lay the cornerstone for establishing trust. Tehran says it does not want atomic arms, but as it builds on its capacity to potentially make such weapons, neither Israel nor the U.S. have ruled out military action if the Islamic Republic fails to heed U.N. Security Council demands to freeze enrichment and other nuclear programs.

The talks are expected to take two days. Saeed Jalili, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, will meet with EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, with Ashton's office saying she will act "on behalf" of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. In fact, senior officials for those six powers will attend and do much of the talking with Tehran.

Ahead of the talks, Western officials urged Tehran to address international concerns about its nuclear activities.

Invoking possible military confrontation over Iran's nuclear defiance, British Defense Secretary Liam Fox said Saturday that the Geneva talks need to make a serious start toward resolving the issue. "We want a negotiated solution, not a military one — but Iran needs to work with us to achieve that outcome," he said. "We will not look away or back down."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was up to Iran to restore trust about its nuclear intentions, urging it to come



Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, cuts a ribbon during a ceremony, as a truck is seen behind him, containing Iran's first domestically mined raw uranium, at the Isfahan uranium conversion facility (UCF), central Iran, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. The translation reads "First shipment of yellowcake produced in Bandar Abbas mill".

Associated Press

to Geneva prepared to "firmly, conclusively reject the pursuit of nuclear weapons."

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said a nuclear-armed Iran "was unacceptable for us."

Sunday's announcement by Salehi burdened the pre-talk atmosphere, adding to tensions left by the assassination last week of a prominent Iranian

nuclear scientist and the wounding of another.

Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the country's vice president, said Iran had for the first time delivered domestically mined raw uranium to a processing facility — allowing it to bypass U.N. sanctions prohibiting import of the material. □



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## WORLD BRIEFS

### 6 terrorist suspects charged in Greece

DEMETRIS NELLAS,

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Six people arrested during police raids in the Athens area and on the island of Crete have been charged with belonging to a terrorist organization and possession of firearms and explosives.

The five men and one woman are to appear in court Tuesday.

The charges do not identify their terrorist organization, but previous arrest warrants against two of the suspects linked them to the radical Greek anarchist group Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire. Greek police chief Lefteris Oikonomou said Sunday that ballistic tests on the weapons seized during Saturday's raids have failed so far to connect the suspects to any known terrorist attacks.

Police had hoped the raids would establish a connection between the Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire and another Greek radical group, Sect of Revolutionaries.

Of the two, the sect has been the most violent one, killing an anti-terrorism police officer guarding a witness in a terrorism trial in June 2009, and a journalist in July. □



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, firefighters enter an Internet cafe following an explosion, downtown of Kaili city in Miao-Dong Autonomous Prefecture of Qiandongnan, in southwest China's Guizhou Province, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

### Chemical blast kills 7 at Internet cafe in China

BEIJING (AP) — An explosion caused by illegally stored chemicals killed seven people and injured 37 at an Internet cafe in southwestern China, state media and the local government said Sunday.

The blast occurred late Saturday in a shop next to the cafe, located under a bridge, the Kaili city government in Guizhou province said in a statement. The official Xinhua News Agency said eight of those hurt were seriously injured.

Six people were killed on the spot and one woman died of extensive burns Sunday after treatment at a hospital failed, Xinhua said. Investigators are identifying the bodies, which included one child, the report said.

Packs of highly concentrated aluminum chloride and sodium nitrite, which are hazardous, were stacked up against a wall in a shop that sold chemicals next to the Internet cafe, the report said. It did not say how the chemicals were ignited.

Police detained a person for illegal possession of the chemicals, while the cafe's boss and manager were also being held by police for questioning, it said.

The explosion shattered the windows of nearby residential buildings, Xinhua said. □



Former South African President Thabo Mbeki gestures as he answers reporters after his meeting with Ivory Coast incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, unseen, at the Presidency house, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

## Mediators try to intervene in Ivory Coast's vote chaos

MARCO CHOWN OVIED

Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — International mediators tried to intervene Sunday in Ivory Coast's growing political crisis after both candidates in the disputed election said they were now president, raising fears the country could again be divided in two.

In the northern opposition stronghold of Bouake, several hundred people marched down a main boulevard Sunday afternoon, calling for incumbent Laurent Gbagbo to stand down. Villagers wielding machetes also created their own checkpoint in protest along one major road in the region.

"It's important not to have violence, not to return to war — to find a peaceful solution," former South African President Thabo Mbeki said Sunday after arriving in Abidjan to try and mediate at the behest of the African Union.

The international community has recognized opposition leader Alassane Ouattara as the winner of the presidential runoff vote held one week ago in Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer.

That, however, did not stop Gbagbo from defying calls to concede. On Saturday, he wrapped himself in the Ivorian flag as he was sworn in for another term at the presidential palace. Hours later, Ouattara told reporters that he too had been sworn into office.

The development effectively set up parallel governments and raised serious questions about who was actually in charge of this West African nation, which was split into a rebel-controlled north and government-controlled south by a 2002-2003 civil war. Despite Ouattara's international support, Gbagbo holds many of the key elements of power, including the army and the state media.

The rivals' support also falls along geographical lines, with Gbagbo controlling the south and Ouattara controlling the north. This has led to speculation that each president may govern over his half of the country, in a defacto re-division of the territory along lines established during the war. The country officially reunited in a 2007 peace deal.

Revised results released Friday showing Gbagbo won re-election did not include a half million votes cast in Ouattara strongholds in the north. The constitutional council said that was because there was evidence pro-Gbagbo voters had been intimidated. The move infuriated residents in areas where votes were thrown out, some of whom blocked a major road Sunday with tree trunks and rocks in protest.

"We are no longer considered Ivorian," said 48-year-old Ali Coulibaly, as other people lay in the road nearby to block cars from passing near the northern village of Djebonoua.

National identity remains at the heart of the split between the loyalist-held south and the north: Northerners have long complained they are treated as foreigners in their own country by southerners.

The question of who would even be allowed to vote in this long-awaited election took years to settle as officials tried to differentiate between Ivorians with roots in neighboring countries and foreigners. Ouattara, born in the north, had himself been prevented from running in previous elections after accusations that he was not Ivorian, and that he was of Burkinabe origin. "The risk of violence between supporters of the two parties, as well as repression by Ivorian security forces against real or perceived supporters of Ouattara, is very high," said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch. □





# Chavez tells hotels to shelter flood homeless

**CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER**  
**Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that he would force privately owned hotels to help shelter tens of thousands of Venezuelans who have left their homes due to floods and mudslides caused by weeks of torrential rains.

“I want the tourism hotels,” Chavez said during a visit to the coastal state of Miranda. He said his government would pay for flood victims to remain at the hotels until the rains subside. “We will occupy them under lease.” Chavez also announced that his government would build apartments near Simon Bolivar International Airport, the country’s largest and busiest airport, and other residential complexes inside El Avila National Park, a

mountainous swath of land separating Caracas from the coast.

He lashed out at the opposition, which has criticized the government’s handling of the floods. He said wealthy Venezuelans have done little to help ease the effects of the floods.

“You people from the upper class should have already offered your golf courses to set up tents” for those driven from their homes, he said.

Deadly floods and mudslides prompted authorities to evacuate hundreds more Venezuelans from high-risk regions Sunday and stoked fears that voters would abstain from important elections in 11 cities and two states.

Vice President Elias Jaua said a dam overflowed in western Zulia state, but he called for calm, saying the incident had not caused any deaths and



**People take refuge in a bus station during flooding in Rio Chico, north central Venezuela, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. Flooding and landslides unleashed by the rains over the last two weeks have killed at least 32 people and forced more than 5,000 Venezuelans from their homes, Venezuela’s Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said Friday.**

*Associated Press*

noting that 300 people living in villages below the dam had been evacuated.

“It’s not going to have significant consequences,” Jaua said. The floods and mudslides unleashed by more than two weeks of steady rain across much of this South American nation of 28 million have killed at least 34 people and left more than 5,000 Venezuelans homeless. More

than 90,000 people have taken refuge at hundreds of shelters, Defense Minister Carlos Mata Figueroa said Sunday.

The government has declared a state of emergency in the capital and three states: Miranda, Vargas and Falcon. Rains also pounded the western states of Zulia, Trujillo, Merida and Tachira on Saturday. Heavy rains have continued even though the country’s wet season usually ends in mid-November.

Sumate, a local nongovernmental organization that monitors elections, expressed concern the rains would keep voters away from balloting for governors in two states and mayors in 11 municipalities, including Maracaibo, the South American country’s second-largest city.

“This situation will undoubtedly have negative effects regarding the participation of voters,” Sumate said in a statement issued Saturday.

On Margarita Island, more than 200 families were evacuated from a town near the San Juan River, which overflowed its banks, said Wolfgang Diaz, an official with Venezuela’s emergency protection agency. Diaz told the Globovision television channel Sunday that early-morning rains caused mudslides nearby, clogging dikes and prompting the river’s water levels to swell. National Guard troops and federal police planned to evacuate 360 families from

the hillside slum of Nueva Tacagua, on the outskirts of Caracas, National Guard commander Luis Mota Dominguez told the state-run AVN news agency.

Chavez foes have charged that the government’s response to the floods has been lackluster and say he has failed during his 11-year rule to meet rising demand for low-income housing.

Consequently, increasing numbers of poor Venezuelans have been forced to live in ramshackle slums ringing major cities, they say. “There are no longer any excuses for this unprecedented failure,” prominent opposition politician Julio Borges said Sunday.

Floods have also ravaged neighboring Colombia, where 170 have died during the country’s rainy season, according to the International Red Cross. “The rains have increased in different areas of Colombia and they will continue until the first days of the coming year,” Jorge Ivan Nova, a representative of the Red Cross in Colombia, said recently.

Colombia’s government has donated \$300,000 to some of the 316,000 families affected by the floods. The U.S. Embassy in Bogota has also pitched in, granting \$30,000 to 2,200 families. Colombian officials estimate that more than 10,000 homes have been destroyed during this year’s particularly lengthy rainy season. □

## Shark kills German tourist at Egyptian resort

**ASHRAF SWEILAM**

**Associated Press**

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP) — A shark tore the arm off an elderly German tourist at an Egyptian Red Sea resort, killing her almost immediately, security and diving officials said Sunday, only days after sharks badly mauled four other European tourists in the waters.

The German woman was swimming in the waters off Sharm el-Sheikh, a famed diving and vacation resort in the Sinai peninsula, when the shark attacked, Egyptian security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not allowed to brief the media.

“It was definitely a shark attack,” said Hesham Gabar, the head of Egypt’s Chamber of Diving and Water Sports. The German Embassy in Cairo could not immediately be reached for comment.

Sunday’s deadly attack, which forced authorities to indefinitely close the resort’s beaches, comes after oceanic white tip sharks mauled three Russians and a Ukrainian tourist last week, also off the coast of Sharm el-Sheikh. In one of those attacks, a shark bit off an elderly woman’s hand and tore off another woman’s leg.

Following those attacks, Egyptian authorities closed the beaches in Sharm el-Sheikh. On Thursday, the Environment Ministry said two sharks suspected of mauling the four tourists were caught.

Authorities allowed swimmers back into the waters Saturday after divers from the Chamber of Diving and Water Sports and the Environment Ministry scoured popular diving sites in an effort to ensure they were safe.

The Environment Ministry also ordered authorities to beef up security measures at beaches in the area, requiring diving centers to provide staff to supervise beaches and watch the waters for sharks.

But following Sunday’s deadly attack, Sharm el-Sheikh’s beaches were closed indefinitely so as not to endanger the lives of tourists, said Zayad el-Baz, the deputy head of the CDWS.

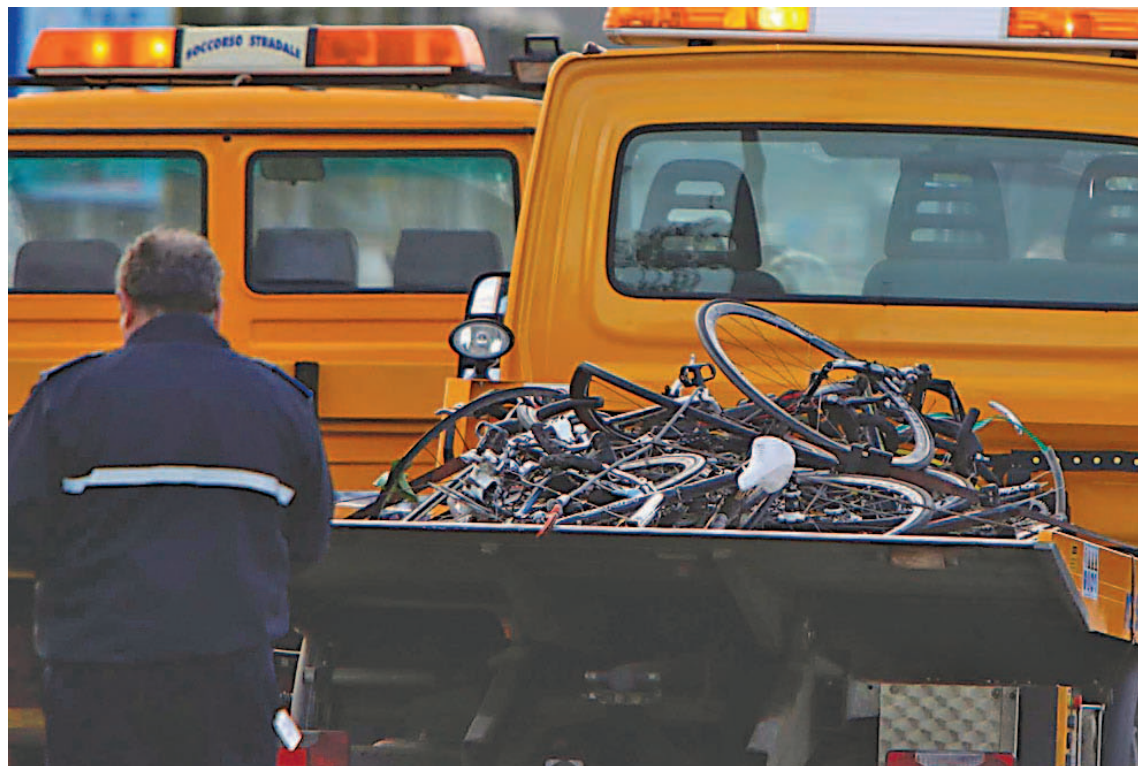
Environmentalists warned that the string of recent attacks is likely a result of the Red Sea’s declining ecosystem. Gabar, the head of the CDWS, said he’s seen a jump in the number of sharks off Egypt’s Red Sea coast, which he said could be caused by overfishing, which could force sharks to swim closer to shore in search of food.

The spate of shark attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh — one of Egypt’s main beach resorts that attracts hundreds of thousands of foreign vacationers annually — could deal a blow to the country’s tourism industry, a vital source of income.

Beach tourism is believed to contribute some 66 percent of Egypt’s total income from tourism, which is expected to reach \$12.3 billion by end of the current fiscal year ending 2011, □



# Car plows into group of cyclists in Italy, 8 dead



A street rescue truck takes away the wreckage of the bicycles belonging to the 8 victims of a speeding car, in Lamezia Terme, southern Italy Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. The driver had been smoking marijuana, police said. Bent, mangled bikes were strewn about the scene, and the sheet-draped corpses dotted the two-lane road near Lamezia Terme, in the Calabrian “toe” of boot-shaped Italy where the accident occurred.

**NICOLE WINFIELD**

**Associated Press**

ROME (AP) — A speeding car

plowed head-on into a group of cyclists in southern Italy on Sunday morning, killing

eight of them, officials said. The driver had been smoking marijuana, police said.

*Associated Press*

Bent, mangled bikes were strewn about the scene, and the sheet-draped corpses dotted the two-lane road near Lamezia Terme, in the Calabrian “toe” of boot-shaped Italy where the accident occurred.

In addition to the eight cyclists killed, four people were injured: two cyclists and the driver and a young boy in the car with him, said Maria Dolores Rucci, commander of the road police in nearby Catanzaro.

The ANSA news agency said the driver, who was only slightly injured, was placed under arrest on charges of multiple homicide. A police spokesman who declined to give his name said the man, a Moroccan national, had tested positive for marijuana.

A preliminary investigation showed the speeding car ran headfirst into the group of 10 cyclists who were riding in the opposite direction on state road 18, according to Italy’s

highway authority.

ANSA said the driver was trying to pass another car when he hit the group. Visibility was good at the time, reports said. The road, closed by authorities for most of the day, reopened Sunday evening.

It is common in Italy to see groups of amateur cyclists taking to small state roads on weekends, and ANSA said the group hit Sunday was affiliated with a local Lamezia Terme gym.

As a result of the crash, Italian cycling officials complained about safety problems for cyclists who have to share roads with cars.

The head of Italy’s cycling federation, Renato Di Rocco, denounced the violent “massacre” of the cyclists and sent his condolences to their families.

The mayor of Lamezia Terme, Gianni Speranza, announced a day of mourning for the dead, ANSA said. □

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**By ARUBA TODAY**

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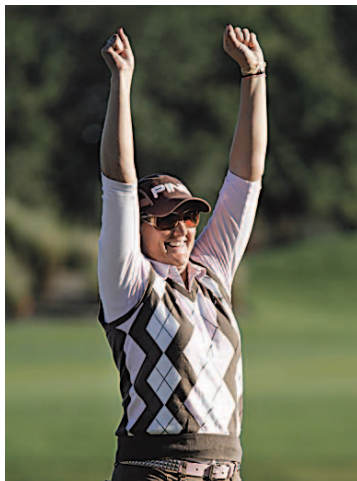
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Maria Hjorth of Sweden celebrates after sinking a putt to win the LPGA Tour Championship golf tournament 5 under par in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. Amy Yang of South Korea finished second one stroke back.

Associated Press

## Maria Hjorth wins LPGA Tour Championship

ANTONIO GONZALEZ

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Maria Hjorth won the LPGA Tour Championship on Sunday, using a final-round 72 to hold off a field that struggled to even make par. Hjorth had three birdies and three bogeys on a picture-perfect day at Grand Cypress Golf Club, where only six of 120 players finished below par for the tournament. Third-round leader Amy Yang shot 74 to finish one shot back. Hjorth finished at 5-under 283 for the tournament, the highest-winning score relative to par all year except for Paula Creamer's 3-under victory in the U.S. Open at Oakmont. The firm and fluctuating greens at Grand Cypress played similar to the toughest major this week, and near-freezing conditions in the first two rounds only punctuated the challenges. Yang made a birdie putt on the 18th from about 15 feet over a ridge, forcing Hjorth to sink an 8-foot putt slightly down hill to save par.

Continued on Page B8



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre (4) reacts after being injured in the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Minneapolis, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press  
NFL ROUNDUP  
Page B2

## Auburn, Oregon give BCS title game new look

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — A season spent talking about BCS busters will end with another clash of the big boys — just not the ones we've gotten used to seeing in the title game.

Alabama and Texas? Florida and Oklahoma? Ohio State? Southern California?

Not this year.

BCS title game first-timers Auburn and Oregon will bring perfect records and potent offenses to Glendale, Ariz., for their Jan. 10 matchup in Glendale, Ariz.

The Bowl Championship Series were made official Sunday night, a formality after the top-ranked Tigers and No. 2 Ducks completed unbeaten seasons Saturday. Oregon players gathered with friends and family in a lounge at the athletic complex on campus to watch as the BCS lineup was revealed on television. There wasn't a peep in the room when Oregon popped up on the screen at No. 2 in the final



Auburn quarterback Cameron Newton (2) gestures to the crowd after defeating South Carolina 56-17 in the Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 in Atlanta.

Associated Press

BCS standings behind first-place Auburn. It was typical Ducks: all business.

"There was no surprise to anybody that we were going to be one or two," defensive tackle Brandon Bair said. "I think you'd have had a great response if you'd seen us down there four or five."

Across the country, Auburn linebacker Craig Stevens had trouble putting his emotions into words. "It's just an

amazing feeling," he said. "We've put in all that hard work (to) see our dreams unfold."

Those outsiders from TCU and Boise State were closer than ever before to playing for college football's biggest prize.

But the third-ranked Horned Frogs, the nation's only other undefeated team, couldn't overcome playing in the lightly regarded Mountain

West Conference and will have to settle for a trip to the Rose Bowl. As for Boise State, one loss was one too many, and the Broncos ended up out of the BCS altogether this season.

The other BCS matchups announced Sunday were: TCU against Big Ten co-champ Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl; Arkansas and Ohio State, which also won a share of the Big Ten title, in the Sugar Bowl; Big 12 champion Oklahoma taking on Big East co-champ Connecticut in the Fiesta Bowl; and, No. 5 Stanford playing ACC title-winner Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

While teams from the power conferences will play for the biggest prize of all, the Tigers and Ducks still represent a changing of the guard in their own way.

Since the BCS was born in 1998, its title game has almost always been stocked with college football's blue bloods and programs with championship pedigrees.

Continued on Page B3



# Vikings overcome loss of Favre in 38-14 win



Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) leaves behind Buffalo Bills defensive tackle Kyle Williams (95) on a 13-yard gain during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

**DAVE CAMPBELL**

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tarvaris Jackson came off the bench for an injured Brett Favre and threw for 187 yards and two touchdowns as

the Minnesota Vikings beat Buffalo 38-14 on Sunday.

NFL Roundup Adrian Peterson rushed for 107 yards and three touchdowns on a tender right ankle for the Vikings, who have won

both matches under interim head coach Leslie Frazier to improve their win-loss record to 5-7. Favre said he sprained his throwing shoulder, which occurred on the first series of the game after a big hit by Bills linebacker Arthur Moats. Jackson came in and led the Vikings to 31 first-half points. But he also threw three interceptions, including one that Drayton Florence returned 40 yards for a touchdown.

Florence had two interceptions for the Bills (2-10). Buffalo committed five turnovers and had just 9 yards passing in the first half to lose its second in a row following two straight wins.

## Jaguars 17, Titans 6

At Nashville, Maurice Jones-Drew ran for a career-best 186 yards while Rashad Jennings and David Garrard each ran for a touchdown for Jacksonville.

The win allowed the Jaguars (7-5) to take over first-place in the AFC South, a half-game ahead of the Indianapolis Colts, who played later Sunday. The Jaguars took control on the ground from the start on a windy, cold day. They scored on their opening drive by running through and over the Titans to split the season series. Tennessee (5-7) started veteran Kerry Collins at quarterback, but the Titans were unable to avoid their fifth straight loss. The Titans have now gone 13 quarters without scoring a touchdown.

## Saints 34, Bengals 30

At Cincinnati, Drew Brees threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Marques Colston with 31 seconds left, rallying New Orleans to its fifth straight victory.

The Saints (9-3) trailed for the first time after newcomer Clint Stitser made a 47-yard field goal with 4:25 to go, putting the Bengals (2-10) up 30-27.

Plenty of time for Brees to pull it out, with the help of yet another Bengals blunder.

Brees passed Archie Manning as the Saints' career passing leader earlier in the game. His 42-yarder to Robert Meacham got New Orleans into field-goal range. On fourth-and-2 from the Cincinnati 7, the Saints lined up and tried to draw the Bengals offsides.

It worked. Lineman Pat Sims jumped, giving the Saints a first down. Brees threw his second touchdown pass on the next play.

## Packers 34, 49ers 16

At Green Bay, Donald Driver's catch-and-run for a 61-yard touchdown broke open a tight game in the third quarter.

Greg Jennings caught six passes from Aaron Rodgers for 122 yards and a pair of touchdowns for the Packers (8-4), who picked up a critical win as they try to make a push for the playoffs in the final month of the season.

Vernon Davis had 126 yards receiving and a touchdown for the 49ers (4-8).

It was a wintry day at Lambeau Field, with temperatures in the 20s and a stiff, steady 16-mph wind that seemed to throw

off the Packers' passing game early on.

## Giants 31, Redskins 7

At East Rutherford, Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw ran for two touchdowns apiece and New York won easily.

Jacobs ran eight times for 103 yards and scored on jaunts of 8 and 28 yards, while Bradshaw had 97 yards and TD runs of 4 and 10 yards as the Giants (8-4) moved back into first-place tie with Philadelphia in the NFC East.

A harried Donovan McNabb threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Armstrong for Washington (5-7), which saw its playoff hopes further dimmed with its fifth loss in seven games. The Redskins had six turnovers.

## Bears 24, Lions 20

At Detroit, Jay Cutler threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Brandon Manumaleuna one play after a questionable call midway through the fourth quarter to lift Chicago.

The NFC North-leading Bears (9-3) took advantage of referee Ed Hochuli flagging Ndamukong Suh for unnecessary roughness. Suh hit Cutler's shoulder pads hard from behind when the quarterback was running downfield. Cutler then connected with Manumaleuna on a 7-yard pass with 8:39 left. Detroit drove to the Chicago 34 before a sack led to a punt. The Lions (2-10) have lost five straight this season and an NFL-record 19 within the division for the longest skid since the 1970 merger.

## Browns 13, Dolphins 10

At Miami, Mike Adams' interception set up a short field goal on the final play, and Cleveland overcame a comedy of errors.

When Browns lineman David Bowens deflected Chad Henne's third-down pass, Adams snatched the ball and ran 25 yards to the 2. On fourth down, Phil Dawson kicked a 23-yard field goal for the win. Cleveland (5-7) won for the fourth time in six games, and for the first time in Miami since 1970. The Dolphins (6-6) lost for the seventh time in their past eight home games. □

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### BCS TITLE GAMES

*Continued from Page B1*

Auburn has one national title to its credit — and it came in 1957. That's one more than Oregon has. In fact, the Ducks are just the second team in the 13-year history of the BCS to reach the championship game looking for the program's first national title. Virginia Tech was the first in 1999.

Also, this title game will be just the second, not including the inaugural BCS championship in 1998, with two teams that have never been there before. The other was in 2001, when Nebraska and Miami — not exactly a couple of upstarts — played for the crystal ball.

Another first: Never before have two teams that started the season ranked outside the AP top 10, played for the BCS title.

The Ducks began the year ranked 11th in the AP poll, with questions at quarterback after Heisman Trophy hopeful Jeremiah Masoli was kicked off the team.

The Tigers were even further back, second in their own state to Nick Saban's defending national champions at Alabama and No. 22 in the nation. Plus, they were breaking in a junior college transfer at quarterback.

Oregon never missed Masoli as coach Chip Kelly simply plugged Darron Thomas into his fast-paced spread offense and watched his team lead the nation in scoring.

The fashion plates of college

football, thanks to the ever-changing uniforms provided by alum and Nike founder Phil Knight, Oregon reached No. 1 in the rankings for the first time this season and emphatically replaced USC as the Pac-10's team to beat with its second straight conference title.

As for Auburn, that JUCO transfer turned out to be the story of the year on and off the field.

Cam Newton has been peerless as a player, the nation's top-rated passer and its 15th-best runner. By the time he gets to Arizona, he'll most likely be a Heisman Trophy winner.

"There were several moments (this season) where we said this guy is going to be different from most," second-year Auburn coach Gene Chizik said.

It's just as likely unanswered questions about an NCAA investigation into his recruitment will be following him to Glendale, too.

The NCAA determined Newton's father, Cecil, tried to peddle his son to Mississippi State for cash, but said there was no evidence Cam or Auburn knew about it.

So when the ruling came down last week, Cam Newton avoided punishment and the sports governing body let the QB play on. He denied any wrongdoing after the SEC championship game Saturday.

While the NCAA will keep on looking into the pay-to-play scheme, there's no reason to believe his status

will change between now and the championship game. With Newton on one side and Ducks tailback LaMichael James, another Heisman hopeful, on the other, this has the makings of one wild championship. Who says defense wins?

The Ducks are averaging 537.5 yards per game and 49 points per game. James leads the nation in rushing in an offense that is simple yet breathtaking.

Kelly, who four years ago was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire, has taken high-speed football to a new level. In their season-ending, 37-20 victory against Oregon State on Saturday, none of the Ducks' six scoring drives lasted longer than 2 minutes, 43 seconds. Newton and the Tigers like to play fast, too.

Auburn's spread averages 498 yards per game and the Tigers are averaging 43 points.

They were never better than Saturday at the Georgia Dome. Newton threw four touchdown passes and ran for two more scores in a 56-17 demolition of South Carolina to win the Southeastern Conference championship.

As has become customary, the SEC champion moves on to play for the national title. The Tigers will try to make it five straight BCS titles for the country's best conference.

The Ducks will try to become the first Pac-10 team other than USC to finish the season No. 1 in both the AP and coaches' polls. □



Oregon's Darron Thomas (1) celebrates with teammates after he scored a running touchdown in the third quarter to put Oregon up 27-19 against Arizona during an NCAA college football game at Autzen Stadium, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, in Eugene, Ore. Oregon defeated Arizona 48-29.

*Associated Press*

### Auburn jumps to No. 1 in AP poll

**RALPH D. RUSSO**

**AP College Football Writer**

Auburn rode its overwhelming win in the Southeastern Conference championship game to its first No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press college football poll since 1985.

The Tigers (13-0) jumped Oregon (12-0), which had been on top the last seven weeks, after beating South Carolina 56-17 on Saturday at the Georgia Dome. The Ducks fell to No. 2 after using a late surge to pull away for a 37-20 victory at Oregon State.

Auburn, which started the season No. 22, received 36 first-place votes. Oregon received 23 and No. 3 TCU (12-0) got one. The Bowl Championship Series pairing were set to be released later Sunday, with Auburn and Oregon expected to be matched in the national championship game.

There were few other changes in the media poll after a Saturday with no upsets. The Horned Frogs were followed by Wisconsin, Stanford, Ohio State, Michigan State, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Boise State.

No. 25 Connecticut moved into the ranking for the first time this season after beating South Florida 19-16 to win a share of the Big East. The Huskies were last ranked in 2008.

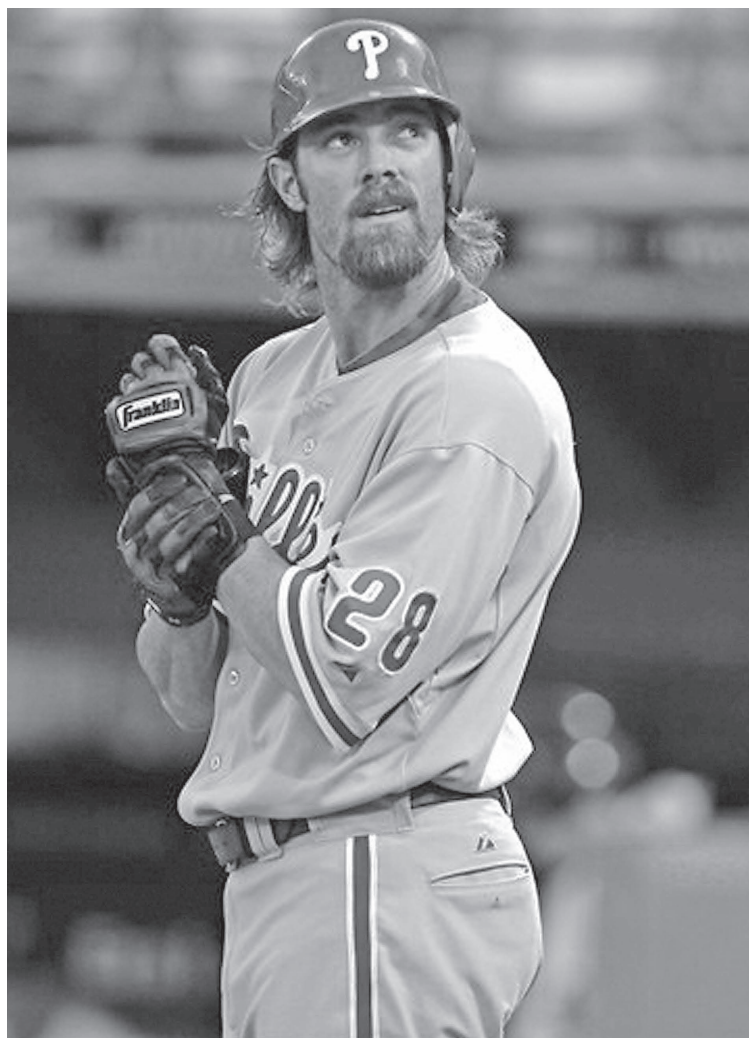
Northern Illinois fell out of the ranking after being upset by Miami, Ohio, in the Mid-American Conference championship game on Friday.

The second 10 starts with No. 11 LSU, followed by Virginia Tech, Nevada, Missouri and Alabama. Oklahoma State is 16th and Nebraska fell four spots after losing the Big 12 title game 23-20 to Oklahoma.

Texas A&M is 18th. South Carolina fell one spot to No. 19 and Utah is No. 20. The final five are Mississippi State, West Virginia, Florida State, Hawaii and Connecticut. □



# Werth agrees to \$126 million, 7-yr deal with Nats



This Sept. 15, 2010 file photo shows the Philadelphia Phillies' Jayson Werth looking up at the replay while batting in the first inning during a baseball game against the Florida Marlins in Miami. Werth agreed to a \$126 million, seven-year contract with the Washington Nationals Sunday Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

— Some general managers had just arrived at the winter meetings and some were not even at the winter meetings yet when the Washington Nationals made a startling announcement Sunday evening: They had agreed with right fielder Jayson Werth on a \$126 million, seven-year contract.

"I thought they were trying to reduce the deficit in Washington," new Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

The 31-year-old Werth, who helped the Phillies win the 2008 World Series title, hit .296 this year in his fourth and final season with Philadelphia. He had an NL-high 46 doubles, 27 homers and 85 RBIs.

"To just spend money wildly on people is not the point. What we're going to do is create an atmosphere ... of winning," Werth said on a conference call.

"I signed here to win, and I believe that we're going to win. It's going to be a

challenge, it's going to take some time," he said.

His agreement was announced two days after the Nationals' cleanup hitter, Adam Dunn, left for a \$56 million, four-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

"We took some light criticism about Adam Dunn leaving," Nationals manager Jim Riggleman said, speaking in the news conference room after the announcement. "People said it was the money. But it's not about the money, as this deal shows. We gave Jayson Werth more."

Werth's contract matched the 12th-largest among current players, a huge deal for a player with only one All-Star selection to his credit. And coming relatively early in the free-agent market, it could have a trickle-down for others seeking new deals.

"Makes some of our contracts look pretty good," said Alderson, whose Mets have been saddled with high-priced, underperforming players. "It's a long time and a lot of money."

Werth moves from the team

that has won four straight NL East titles to one that finished last this year at 69-93 and hasn't had a winning record since 2003 — the franchise's next-to-last season as the Montreal Expos.

"It kind of exemplifies phase two of the Washington Nationals' process," general manager Mike Rizzo said. "Phase one was scouting and player development, building the farm system. ... Now it's the time to go to the second phase and really compete for division titles and championships."

As to why the Phillies didn't re-sign him, Werth said, "It's something they're going to have to answer."

"Unfortunately, it didn't work out. I did have a great time in Philadelphia," he said. "Once you get to a point where you feel unwanted or you get a sense you're not part of the plans, it's time to move on. At that point, I was ready to go, and fortunately enough for me I found a home in Washington."

Werth's deal was negotiated by agent Scott Boras, who also negotiated big-money agreements with the Nationals for the last two No. 1 picks in the amateur draft, pitcher Stephen Strasburg in 2009 and catcher-outfielder Bryce Harper this year.

"We think he's going to be a big piece of the puzzle," Rizzo said. "We certainly have more holes to fill. We had more work to do, and we're certainly aggressively going on from here and beyond."

Boras said talks began just before Thanksgiving when Nationals owners Ted Lerner and Mark Lerner met with Werth at Boras' office in Newport Beach, Calif. The sides reached a preliminary agreement Friday.

"I've been given a lot of assurances by the Lerner family and by Mike that we're going to go after some guys that are going to make a difference. They're going to put this team to where it needs to be. I'm definitely on board with that," Werth said.

Familiarity from the previous deals helped. □

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# Ted Ligety wins GS race in Beaver Creek

**PAT GRAHAM**  
**AP Sports Writer**  
**BEAVER CREEK, Colorado (AP)** — U.S. skier Ted Ligety won a World Cup giant slalom on Sunday, edging Norway's Kjetil Jansrud by 0.82 seconds.

So close to winning in the past on the closest thing the Americans have to a home hill, Ligety wasn't about to settle for safe. He turned in two nearly flawless runs, including a hard-charging final descent.

"I didn't want to hold back," said Ligety, who has finished no worse than fourth in the GS at Beaver Creek since 2006. "I was just thinking I'd rather blow out having the lead than come down and feel like I choked. I was going hard and I was lucky to make it without any mistakes."

Jansrud figured he had his first World Cup win after a fast final run, only to be foiled by his good friend who went down last.

"I was like, 'Yeah, this is going to be tough for Ted,'" Jansrud said. "I skied good

on the top, felt like I was pushing it."

Marcel Hirscher of Austria wound up third.

But this was Ligety's time as he captured a World Cup race a few hours after Lindsey Vonn cruised to a super-G win in Lake Louise, Alberta.

This was definitely a banner day for the Americans on the hill, producing two winners on the same afternoon for the first time in nearly four years.

"It's really cool," Ligety said. "It's nice to have my name next to hers when she's winning."

Swiss skier Daniel Albrecht returned to racing and wound up in 21st place. Albrecht had a horrific crash nearly two years ago during a downhill training run at Kitzbuehel, Austria, that left him in a medically induced coma with brain and lung injuries.

The crowd gave Albrecht a rousing ovation after both of his runs.

"It was such a hard road to come back," Albrecht said. "It took a lot of time. I was

hoping to do everything well again. That was the satisfying thing, to be able to come back to where I was."

Just his presence back on the mountain impressed Ligety, let alone his ability to be a factor in this race.

"That's phenomenal," Ligety said. "That's really a credit to him and what a good skier he is now, and how really good he was before." □

## Vonn prevents Riesch sweep at Lake Louise

**By Donna Spencer**  
**The Canadian Press**  
**LAKE LOUISE, Alta.** - Lindsey Vonn wasn't leaving Lake Louise without a win.

After finishing second in both World Cup downhills to Maria Riesch, Vonn won Sunday's super-G by over three-quarters of a second over her German rival.

Vonn, the defending World Cup champion and reigning Olympic champion in downhill, has won a record seven downhills at Lake Louise, but Sunday's victory was her first in super-G at the resort.

"I wanted to end the weekend with a bang, make a statement



U.S. ski racer Ted Ligety of Park City, Utah reacts in the finish area after winning the men's World Cup giant slalom ski race in Beaver Creek, Colo., on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

and put people's doubts to rest and I think I did that today," Vonn said.

"I always somehow get the win taken away from me here in Lake Louise in super-G. I've always lost by a small margin, so I wanted to make sure there was no room for doubt today. If I can't win the downhill, then it's great I can at least win the super-G."

The American's time was one minute 20.72 seconds on the 1,967-metre course. Riesch, who has taken the early World Cup lead, finished in 1:21.55.

Vonn's American teammate Julia Mancuso was third

in 1:21.61. Marie-Michele Gagnon of Lac-Edchemin, Que., was the top Canadian in 27th.

The next stop on the women's World Cup circuit is St. Moritz, Switzerland, for super-G and giant slalom races Saturday and Sunday, followed by a downhill in Val-d'Isere the following week.

Riesch, from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, was attempting to become the first woman to sweep all three races at Lake Louise since her countrywoman Katja Seizinger won both downhills and the super-G in 1997. □

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	matinee: 1.00				matinee: 1.45		
	late show: 11.00				late show: 11.15		
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	matinee: 12.15	2.30			matinee: 1.15	3.45	
	late show: 11.00				late show: 11.30		
<b>JACKASS</b>	daily: 7.15	9.30	<b>R</b>	<b>MEGAMIND</b>	daily: 4.30		<b>PG</b>
	matinee: 11.45				matinee: 12.00	2.15	
	late show: 11.45				late show: 11.30		
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	matinee: 11.30				matinee: 11.30		
	late show: 11.30				late show: 11.30		
<b>SINTERKLAAS EN HET PAKJES MYSTERIE</b>	daily: 4.00		<b>PG</b>	<b>BURLESQUE</b>	daily: 6.00	8.45	<b>PG-13</b>
	matinee: 12.00	2.00			matinee: 12.15	3.15	
	late show: 11.30				late show: 11.15		
<b>FAIR GAME</b>	daily: 9.00		<b>PG-13</b>	<b>AT CRYSTAL THEATER</b>			
	matinee: 11.30			<b>FASTER</b>			
	late show: 11.30			daily: 8:30			

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat



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Christmas is the season of giving, and you can help ARUBA TODAY and BON DIA ARUBA make it more special for families in need on Aruba.

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**Aruba TODAY**



# McDowell upstages Woods in season finale

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell capped off his greatest year with two clutch putts that gave him the greatest comeback ever against Tiger Woods.

McDowell holed a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole to force a playoff Sunday in the Chevron World Challenge, then made another birdie putt from a little farther away to deny Woods a victory in his final tournament of the year.

“It’s the stuff of dreams — 2010 has been the stuff of dreams,” McDowell said.

Woods, despite losing a four-shot lead, was poised to end a turbulent year with a victory in his final event. Joint leader going to the 18th hole at Sherwood Country Club, he hit an 8-iron inside 3 feet for a sure birdie. It was vintage Woods, the kind of magic he has delivered so often in his career.

But it wasn’t the same old outcome.

McDowell, with his own reputation as a tough closer, answered with an all-or-nothing birdie putt.

In the playoff on the same hole, McDowell coaxed in another birdie putt from about 25 feet. Woods had about 15 feet to extend the playoff, but missed just right of the cup.

“Probably two of the great putts I’ve made,” McDowell said.

It was the first time Woods has ever lost a tournament when leading by at least three shots going into the final round. And it was the first time Woods has lost an event and felt good about himself.

“It was a great week, even though I didn’t win,” Woods said. “I’m proud of the way I played today, even though I lost.”

He opened with three rounds in the 60s, the first time since the PGA Championship last year that he led after the first three rounds.

But he three-putted twice for bogey early in his round, lost the lead with a double bogey on the par-5 13th, then rallied to give himself a chance to win when McDowell paid for a few bad shots. Ultimately, it was great theater. And for the first time all year, it included Woods.

“He will be back to winning tournaments very soon,” McDowell said.

McDowell closed with a 69, while Woods shot a 73 to match him at 16-under 272. They were four shots clear of Paul Casey, who had had a 69 to finish alone in third.

McDowell showed why he is considered such a tough closer, despite letting Woods back into the game late.

He had a one-shot lead — courtesy of Woods chopping his way to double bogey on the par-5 13th — when McDowell pulled his tee shot on the par-3 17th into grass so deep that he took a penalty drop onto the 18th tee. But he dropped only one shot when Woods missed his birdie putt and McDowell pitched over a tree to about 7 feet and made the bogey putt.

Then, Woods had a big advantage again — but not for long.

“We had a good battle out there,” Woods said.

Woods was shaky early on with the putter to quickly lose his four-shot cushion, but he didn’t

fall out of the lead until the 13th.

He took his hand off the club on a poor tee shot that went into the left rough, forcing him to lay up. Then came another poor swing, again letting the club fall from his hands, as his wedge sailed over the green. He chipped through the green, chipped back 6 feet long and missed the putt to make double bogey.

McDowell reached the green in two for a birdie, which was a massive three-shot swing.

It was the first time Woods trailed in the tournament since the 13th hole of the opening round, a stretch of 54 holes.

Woods was grinding to keep his game together, which was not unexpected considering it had been one year and 20 days since he last played in the final round of a tournament with the lead. He never got it back, thanks to the clutch putting from McDowell.

A year ago, McDowell was a last-minute alternate to this tournament when Woods’ personal life began to collapse. He finished second and earned enough world ranking points that he eventually got into the U.S. Open, which he won at Pebble Beach.

At a party Saturday night, McDowell asked tournament director Greg McLaughlin if he could at least try to win the tournament. Once upon a time, a four-shot lead for Woods in the final round made the result a foregone conclusion. Upon seeing McLaughlin after winning, McDowell jokingly apologized.

It may have ruined a good story for Woods. It capped a dream season for McDowell, who won \$1.2 million and moved up to No. 7 in the world. □



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, holds up the winning trophy after winning the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament in sudden death at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

## Westwood confirms No.1 ranking at Sun City



GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — Lee Westwood confirmed his year-end No. 1 ranking with an eight-shot win at the Nedbank Golf Challenge at Sun City on Sunday.

The top-ranked Englishman sailed to a 4-under 68 in the

final round at the Gary Player Country Club for a 271 total, chipping in from the fringe on 18 for a memorable birdie finish.

“It was the stuff that dreams are made of, I guess,” Westwood said of the pitch and run from nearly 40 yards that nestled in the cup for a three on the last hole and a perfect ending in front of a packed gallery.

“I didn’t want to get ahead of myself but I knew I was playing well. It was a professional round I thought. Recently, I really felt there was a good week coming.” Westwood had five birdies and one bogey, on No. 17, to secure the top ranking for the remainder of 2010 from a resurgent Tiger Woods.

South Africa’s Tim Clark shot a 1-under 71 to finish second on 9-under 279, one better than compatriot Retief Goosen and Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez.

The 37-year-old Westwood has led the 12-player field since Friday and was unchallenged on the final day to win his first Nedbank title on his seventh attempt, collecting \$1.25 million in prize money. It was his second tournament win of the year in his final event of the season.

He carded under-par rounds of 68, 64, 71 and 68, with four bogeys all week, in a performance befitting his top ranking.

“It (the No. 1 ranking) is something that I’m still coming to terms with,” Westwood said. “But since I’ve become No. 1 I’ve finished second (HSBC Champions), third (Dubai World Championship) and first. So, I think I can cope with it.” □



# Serbia rallies to capture 1st Davis Cup title

DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia celebrated its first Davis Cup title Sunday, becoming only the second unseeded nation to win the trophy when Viktor Troicki beat Michael Llodra 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 to complete a 3-2 comeback win over France. Troicki, who had replaced Janko Tipsarevic for the final singles match, dropped to the court in jubilation after his victory in the decisive singles match and his teammates fell into each other's arms to celebrate.

"This is unbelievable. I don't know how to react, what to do. This is the best moment of my life," Troicki said as his teammates kept their promise to have their heads shaved on court.

Croatia was the first unseeded nation to win the title, in 2005. France was leading 2-1 in the best-of-five-series after winning the doubles Saturday in its bid to capture its 10th Davis Cup, and first since 2001.

Novak Djokovic then tied the series by beating Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in Sunday's first reverse singles match.

Troicki then played some of his best tennis, constantly



passing Llodra, the serve-and-volley specialist who stood stunned at the net.

"This is the best moment of my career and probably of my nation," Djokovic said. "This is like winning the World Cup for us."

Troicki, ranked 30th in the world, broke Llodra twice in each set and hit 58 winners compared to 32 for the Frenchman. The Serb won the match with another crosscourt passing shot that left Llodra flat-footed at the net.

"A lot of emotions went through my head at that

moment, remembering when I was a kid and dreaming to one day play in such a match," Troicki said.

Serbia reached the final after beating the United States, Croatia and the Czech Republic. The team only reached the World Group for the first time in 2008, and twice had to win playoffs to stay in the top tier.

"My players showed that they are mentally the strongest team in the world," Serbia captain Bogdan Obradovic said. "We showed we are No. 1." His players posed with the

enormous trophy on court in front of 16,000 flag-waving fans in Belgrade Arena.

The third-ranked Djokovic started the comeback, breaking the 12th-ranked Monfils twice in each of the first two sets.

Djokovic's first break came in the fourth game of the first set when Monfils attempted a forehand through his legs while leading 30-0. He failed, had to change his racket after hitting it on the turf, and lost the next four points.

Djokovic won the set with a forehand that grazed the net. Monfils put up tougher

resistance in the third set, saving three break points at 1-0 and then breaking Djokovic's serve for 2-1. Djokovic broke back, but then again failed to hold his serve for 4-3 to the Frenchman.

Djokovic had another break for 4-4 after a crosscourt volley. He held on to his serve and then broke Monfils to secure the victory.

"It was unbelievable today," Djokovic said. "Under the circumstances, maybe one of the best matches I have played this year. It was definitely a lot of pressure, expectations." Djokovic had 18 unforced errors compared to Monfils' 37. The Serb, who won his seventh consecutive Davis Cup singles, had only one forced error, compared to the 15 for the Frenchman.

"I don't know if I had a chance," said Monfils, whose record against Djokovic fell to 0-6. "He was better than me tonight."

On Saturday, Llodra and Arnaud Clement rallied against Nenad Zimonjic and Troicki to triumph 3-6, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 in the doubles. In the opening singles on Friday, Tipsarevic succumbed to nerves and lost to Monfils, while Djokovic beat Gilles Simon in straight sets. □



Jimmie Johnson gives a thumbs-up to the crowd on the Las Vegas Strip during a NASCAR champions week victory lap Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, in Las Vegas.

LPGA

Continued from Page B1

She did, dropping her putter and lifting her arms in the air in triumph after it rolled in.

Yani Tseng also clinched LPGA player of the year, despite finishing 5 over for the tournament. None of the major season awards even

changed hands this week.

The victory was only Hjorth's fourth LPGA win and first since 2007. It also was a sweet homecoming victory

for the Swedish native who now lives a few miles away from the tournament, the first LPGA event in Florida in two years. The season-ending tournament turned out to be anticlimactic, even though it was never easy.

A week that could've shaped up to be one of the closest finishes the LPGA has had in a decade — now that Lorena Ochoa and Annika Sorenstam are both retired and every major award was in play — instead ended with a thud:

— Tseng became the first player from Taiwan to win LPGA player of the year.

— South Korea's Na Yeon Choi won this year's money title.

— Choi also claimed the Vare Trophy for the year's lowest scoring average.

— Fellow South Korean Jiyai

Shin, who missed the 54-hole cut and was the only one who could unseat Choi on the money list, will keep her spot atop the world rankings. She finished 12 over. Cristie Kerr also was within striking distance Sunday to be the first American since Beth Daniel in 1994 to claim LPGA player of the year. But her final-round 73 put her at 3 under for the tournament in a tie for third place.

The final round would have only one shining star.

Hjorth was calm and cool on greens that frustrated so many in the field. She made huge putts to save par over and over, perhaps none bigger than a 10-footer on the 16th hole.

That gave her a two-shot cushion over the final two holes, which proved huge on the 18th. □



# WikiLeaks server goes down, Swiss say

By JOHN HEILPRIN,  
Associated Press

GENEVA — WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange turned increasingly to Switzerland on Sunday, dodging a barrage of threats online and in the real world to keep access to a trove of U.S. State Department cables under a Swiss Web address.

The elusive founder of the website WikiLeaks said he faced "hundreds of death threats." The site hinged on the Swiss Pirate Party's wikileaks.ch Web address, though the main server in France went offline, leaving the site reachable through a Swedish server.

That site showed Assange had begun seeking donations to an account under his name through the Swiss postal system in Berne, the Swiss capital. He lost a major source of revenue when the online payment service provider PayPal cut off the WikiLeaks account over the weekend.

PayPal, a subsidiary of U.S.-based online marketplace operator EBay Inc., said the WikiLeaks website, which specializes in disclosing confidential documents, was engaged in illegal activity.

A spokesman for the financial services arm of Swiss Post told the respected Swiss weekly NZZ am Sonntag that it was reviewing its "relationship"

with Assange, whose stated reason for opening the account was to have a residence in Geneva.

French web hosting company OVH, which owns the server, didn't immediately respond to calls Sunday.

France's Industry Minister Eric Besson had warned Friday that it was unacceptable to host a site that "violates the secret of diplomatic relations." The company said earlier that it had been hosting WikiLeaks since early Thursday, after a client asked for a "dedicated server with ... protection against attacks."

The president of the Swiss Pirate Party, which controls the wikileaks.ch Web address, said he was in the process of pointing that domain name to a different server, apparently based in Sweden. The site also was still reachable through the numerical address of its Swedish server.

And the party said it noticed an increasing number of supporters creating "mirrors" of the WikiLeaks site on their own servers, meaning that copies of the site would remain up and running even if WikiLeaks were somehow to lose its own site.

"Even if you take down the server in Sweden, it's too late," Swiss Pirate Party Vice President Pascal Gloor told The Associated Press on

Sunday.

"There are hundreds of mirrors of WikiLeaks now," he said. "It's a test for Internet censorship. Can governments take something off the net? I think not. There are copies of the website everywhere."

In a high-tech media building in Bienne, Switzerland, the party convened an impromptu news conference late Friday to say it had no special knowledge of Assange's whereabouts or ability to contact him, but had spoken with him weeks ago to help seek asylum in Switzerland. That was during Assange's visit to Geneva last month when he spoke to reporters at the United Nations.

Starting Friday, the Swiss Web address wikileaks.ch became the site's main access point after EveryDNS, a company based in Manchester, New Hampshire, stopped accepting traffic to the site's principal address — wikileaks.org — saying cyberattacks threatened the rest of its network. Amazon stopped hosting WikiLeaks' Web site and governments and hackers were continuing to go after the organization. News media reports were filled with stories about the hundreds of thousands of U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks, which is coming under intense legal pressure in several countries, including



Swiss Denis Simonet, right, president of the Pirate Party, and vice president Pascal Gloor left, pose prior to a press conference in Biel, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 3, 2010. Simonet announced the moving of Wikileaks to Switzerland. Just a few hours after having its DNS servers terminated by a US company, WikiLeaks has announced a move to the Swiss domain 'wikileaks.ch'. The domain is registered by the Pirate Party of Switzerland and it currently points to a single IP address in Sweden.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Sebastien Feval)

the United States.

In an online chat with El Pais in Spain, Assange said the hunt for him was tough. He remains free while his website spews daily embarrassment and potential diplomatic damage to the U.S.

"We have hundreds of specific death threats from U.S. military militants. That is not unusual, and we have become practiced from past experiences at ignoring such threats from Islamic extremists, African kleptocrats and so on," he said.

"Recently the situation has changed with these threats now extending out to our lawyers

and my children," he added. "However, it is the specific calls from the elites of U.S. society for our assassination, kidnapping and execution that is more concerning."

Assange, who is now in Britain, according to his British lawyer, is wanted in Sweden to face allegations of sexual offenses against two women, charges he denies, but the United States has not lodged any charges against him. Nor has Britain.

In the Swedish case, Assange is the target of a European extradition process which normally takes months to produce an arrest. □

## US cable: China leaders ordered hacking on Google

By GILLIAN WONG,

BEIJING — Contacts told American diplomats that hacking attacks against Google were ordered by China's top ruling body and a senior leader demanded action after finding search results that were critical of him, leaked U.S. government memos show. One memo sent by the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to Washington said a "well-placed contact" told diplomats the Chinese government coordinated the attacks late last year on Google Inc. under the direction of the Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of Communist Party power.

The details of the memos, known in diplomatic parlance as cables, could not be

verified. Chinese government departments either refused to comment or could not be reached. If true, the cables show the political pressures that were facing Google when it decided to close its China-based search engine in March. The cable about the hacking attacks against Google, which was classified as secret by Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Goldberg, was released by WikiLeaks. The New York Times said the cable, dated early this year, quoted the contact as saying that propaganda chief Li Changchun, the fifth-ranked official in the country, and top security official Zhou Yongkang oversaw the hacking of Google. Both men

are members of the Politburo Standing Committee. The cable notes that it is unclear if Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao were aware of the reported actions before Google went public about the attacks in January. The Times, however, said doubts about the allegation have arisen after the newspaper interviewed the person cited in the cable, who denied knowing who directed the hacking attacks on Google. The Times did not identify the person it interviewed. Another contact cited in that cable said he believed an official on the top political body was "working actively with Chinese Internet search engine Baidu



FILE - In this file photo taken Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, a Chinese Google user presents a book titled 'Google Planet' and 'What will Google bring?' in front of a Google sign outside Google China headquarters building in Beijing, China. A leaked U.S. government cable shows sources told American diplomats that hacking attacks against Google were ordered by China's top ruling body.

(AP Photo/Vincent Thian, File)

against Google's interests in China." Google's relations with Beijing have been tense since the U.S.-based search giant said in January it no longer wanted to cooperate

with Chinese Web censorship following computer hacking attacks on Google's computer code and efforts to break into the e-mail accounts of human rights activists. □



# Hairy vs. Harry: 'Tangled' wins weekend box office

By DAVID GERMAIN,  
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hair has won out over Harry Potter at the weekend box office.

Mandy Moore's animated musical "Tangled," a new take on long-haired fairy-tale princess Rapunzel, sewed up the No. 1 spot with \$21.5 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. That raised the Disney release's domestic total to \$96.5 million.

"Tangled" had debuted in second-place over Thanksgiving behind "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," which had been at the top of the box office the two previous weekends.

"Harry Potter" slipped to No. 2 this weekend with \$16.7 million. The next-to-last chapter in the Warner

Bros. franchise about the teen wizard lifted its domestic haul to \$244.2 million.

Playing largely to family crowds, "Tangled" should hold on well through the holidays, said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

"It's not very often the second week of a movie that it ends up the No. 1 movie," Viane said. "This will be one of those leggy movies that just keeps playing and playing." Business was off sharply after a brisk Thanksgiving weekend, which is one of the busiest periods of the year at movie theaters.

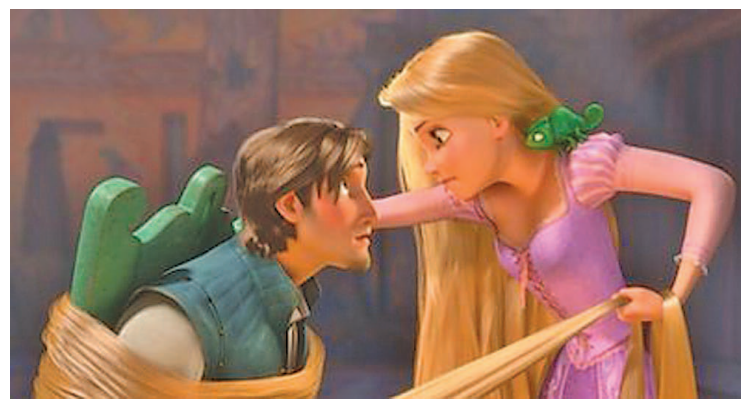
With just \$88 million in overall receipts, this was Hollywood's second-worst weekend of the year, behind the meager \$81.8 million haul the weekend after Labor

Day, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It was a bad weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for Hollywood.com. "It just shows that people got a lot of their movie-going out of the way over that five-day Thanksgiving weekend, and this weekend, they went, 'Ahh, we've seen it.'"

Overall revenues also were down from last year. The \$88 million in revenue was off 11.5 percent compared to the same weekend in 2009, when "The Blind Side" led the box office with \$20 million, according to Hollywood.com. The weekend's only new wide release, Rogue Pictures' action tale "The Warrior's Way," was a dud with just \$3.1 million. Playing in 1,622 theaters, "The Warrior's Way" averaged a weak \$1,881 a cinema, compared to \$5,967 in 3,603 cinemas for "Tangled."

Starring Kate Bosworth, "The



In this film publicity image released by Disney, Rapunzel, voiced by Mandy Moore, right, and Flynn, voiced by Zachary Levi are shown in a scene from the animated feature, "Tangled."

(AP Photo/Disney Enterprises, Inc.)

Warrior's Way" is a martial-arts adventure about an assassin hiding out in the Old West. Natalie Portman's ballet drama "Black Swan" had a huge debut in limited release, taking in \$1.4 million in just 18 theaters, for a whopping average of \$77,459 a theater. Released by Fox Searchlight, "Black Swan" stars Portman as a dancer who begins to lose herself in delusion amid the pressures of preparing for the lead in Swan Lake. The

film gradually expands into nationwide release through Christmas week.

Also in limited release, Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor's gay romance "I Love You Phillip Morris" opened solidly with \$113,200 in six theaters, averaging \$18,886.

Carrey stars as a scam artist who finds the love of his life (McGregor) in state prison. The movie gradually expands into wide release through early January. □



Oprah Winfrey speaks after accepting the Minerva award at "The Women's Conference 2010" in Long Beach, California October 26, 2010.

## Winfrey picks 2 Dickens novels for book club

By HILLEL ITALIE,  
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Better set some time aside for Oprah Winfrey's latest book club pick.

The talk show host has selected a pair of Dickens classics, "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Great Expectations." The two novels are being issued in a single bound paperback edition, around 800 pages, with a list price of \$20.

Winfrey is to announce her choice Monday, when her long-awaited reconciliation with Jonathan Franzen will air. Winfrey picked Franzen's "Freedom" nine years after his ambivalence over her selection of his novel "The Corrections" led her to withdraw her invitation to appear on her show.

On Sunday, The Associated Press purchased a copy of the new Dickens volume, which has the book club logo on the cover. Winfrey has chosen older works before, including Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina" and John Steinbeck's "East of Eden." Her website recommends Dickens' "David Copperfield," noting it was a favorite of Tolstoy's. □

## Justin Bieber misses appearance on German TV



German TV host Thomas Gottschalk right, watches over contestant Samuel Koch after a stunt went wrong during the top rated German game show "Wetten Dass" (Bet it...?) in Duesseldorf, Saturday Dec. 4, 2010. Koch tried to jump over a moving car, driven by his father, wearing "Kangaroo" shoes when he hit the car with his head and fell to the ground. The show was immediately stopped and Koch was reported to be recovering in hospital. Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber was due to make an appearance on the canceled show and asked his Twitter followers to pray for Koch.

(AP Photo/Ralph Orlowski, pool)

BERLIN — Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber missed an appearance on one of Germany's top rated television shows as it was cut short by a stunt that went badly wrong. Broadcaster ZDF said the live broadcast of "Wetten Dass" (Bet it...?) game show had to

be canceled Saturday evening after contestant Samuel Koch was severely injured while trying to jump over a moving car driven by his father with the help of special shoes featuring a suspension system. The 16-year-old Bieber later said on his Twitter account:

"Please pray for Samuel Koch & his family as we wait and hope for his health and safety." The singer added on Twitter he felt sorry for not performing in Germany, but "some things are more important than putting on a show. We will be back I promise." "Wetten dass," which has been on TV for almost 30 years, is one of the country's most successful shows, and German media reported Saturday's show had an audience of about 10 million.

The show also was to include a gig by singer Robbie Williams, and Phil Collins, Cher or actress Cameron Diaz were among the guests, according to the broadcaster's website.

The 23-year-old Koch suffered multiple back injuries and fractures, underwent surgery Sunday, and his condition was no longer life threatening, the German news agency DPAD quoted Duesseldorf hospital Dr. Wolfgang Raab as saying. But it remained unclear if or when Koch would fully recover since "he is in an extremely critical stage," Raab told journalists. □





# Senate showdown may pave way for year-end tax deal

By **DAVID ESPO**,  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans derailed legislation Saturday to extend expiring tax cuts at all but the highest income levels in a political showdown that paradoxically clears a path for a compromise with the White House on steps to boost the economy. “We need to get this resolved and I’m confident we can do it,” President Barack Obama said shortly after the near party-line votes. The public must have “the peace of mind that their taxes will not go up” on Jan. 1, he added. Obama has signaled that he will bow to Republican demands for extending tax cuts at all income levels, and his remarks capped a day that lurched between political conflict and talk of compromise on an issue that played a leading role in last month’s elections.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., eyeing the 2012 campaign, accused Republicans of siding with “millionaires

and billionaires” with their rejection of proposals that would let tax cuts passed during George W. Bush’s presidency lapse on seven-figure incomes.

Republicans noted that unemployment rose to 9.8 percent last month and said it made no sense to raise taxes on anyone in a weak economy. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., jabbed that Democrats were undergoing a “political catharsis” in public after losing control of the House and surrendering several seats in the Senate in the Nov. 2 election. But the rhetoric subsided quickly after the votes, and Senate leaders in both parties said they hoped political clashes would give way to compromise in the next several days.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, the GOP leader, said he was relatively confident there would be a deal with the White House “not to raise taxes in the middle of a recession.” He said talks were continuing on the length of an

extension to be enacted for the cuts that were put in place in 2001 and 2003.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he hoped for an agreement by the middle or end of next week on legislation that would combine an extension of tax cuts with a renewal of expiring jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Officials have said that in addition to tax cuts and unemployment benefits, the White House wants to include renewal of several other tax provisions that are expiring. They include a break for lower- and middle-class wage earners, even if they don’t make enough to pay the government, as well as for college students and for companies that hire the unemployed.

Obama later spoke with Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. A White House official said the president told them he was open to a temporary extension of the tax cuts if the Democratic priorities were



(L-R) Office of Management and Budget Director Jacob Lew, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Rep. Chris Van Hollen meet with Sen. Jon Kyl Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and Rep. Dave Camp to discuss the Bush-era tax cuts on December 1.

included in the deal.

Key lawmakers and administration officials have been at work negotiating the terms of a possible deal for several days.

But many congressional Democrats privately have expressed anger at Obama for his willingness to surrender to Republican demands to let the tax cuts remain in place at upper incomes, and numerous officials said no compromise would be possible until they had engineered votes in both the House and Senate.

Any deal would mean a reversal for Obama, who said in the 2008 presidential race and this year that he wanted to

let cuts expire above incomes of \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples.

In the Senate, a bill to enact Obama’s original position was blocked on a vote of 53-36, seven votes short of the 60 needed to advance. Republicans were unanimous in their opposition, and were joined by Democratic Sens. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Jim Webb of Virginia and independent Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut.

The second measure would have let taxes rise on incomes over \$1 million. □

# Stocks may fly as fear fades

By **Angela Moon**

NEW YORK — Europe’s sovereign debt crisis will still hang over global markets this week, but on Wall Street, investors will not be afraid to bet on stocks.

Wall Street showed its ability to hold onto gains, or quickly recover from losses last week despite Europe’s debt woes, suggesting that investors are confident of a sustained rally.

“When things don’t fall apart on bad news, you know that the market is no longer vulnerable. The overall sentiment is pretty solid,” said Randy Frederick, director of trading and derivatives at Schwab Center for Financial Research in Austin, Texas.

The outstanding put-to-call ratio on index options, heavily focused on the S&P 500 benchmark, dropped from 1.32 for the shortened Thanksgiving holiday week to 1.29, showing bullish signs for the week ahead.

The ratio, which is always greater than 1, is the primary hedging vehicle for institutional investors. The ratio rises with a market rally as

the possibility of a pullback also increases.

“The ability (to not fall apart) is helping investors remain upbeat on short-term prospects for stocks. We may not see this continue until the end of January next year, but the month of December certainly looks encouraging.”

The CBOE Volatility Index or VIX (.VIX), Wall Street’s so-called fear gauge, fell on Friday despite a decline in stocks earlier in the day as traders saw fewer reasons to buy protection.

The index, which usually moves inverse to the S&P 500 benchmark, strayed from the relationship and closed at its lowest since April. The iPath S&P 500 VIX Short Term Futures exchange-traded note (BARC.L) (VXX.P) also notched a new year low of \$41.11 on Friday. The ETN, which offers directional volatility exposure, is based off of the front two-month futures on the VIX.

“There is definitely a trend in the VXX to try to get short in the ETN,” said Dan Deming, a VIX options trader at Stutland Equities. □

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# Doctors testing warm, beating hearts in transplant



In this photo taken Oct. 18, 2010, beating heart transplant patient Andrea Ybarra is seen with attending cardiologist Daniel Cruz, during a heart biopsy at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. The transplant was part of a procedure where the donor heart is placed into a special box that feeds it blood and keeps it warm and beating outside the body.

By ALICIA CHANG,  
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Andrea Ybarra's donated heart was beating rhythmically by the time she awoke from the grogginess of her surgery.

Lub-dub. Lub-dub. Lub-dub. In fact, it was warm and pumping even before doctors transplanted it.

Ybarra belongs to a small group of people who have had a "beating heart" transplant, an experimental operation that's mostly been done in Europe. The donor heart is placed into a special box that feeds it blood and keeps it warm and ticking outside the body. "I felt peaceful when I woke up. I wasn't scared," recalled the 40-year-old from a Los Angeles suburb who suffers from lupus. "It felt like the heart was a part of me all the time."

Despite advances in heart transplantation, the way hearts are moved around the United States and most places remains low-tech.

A team of doctors and organ recovery specialists stuffs an off-the-shelf picnic cooler with ice and jets off at odd hours to a donor hospital where a heart from a brain-dead patient awaits. They

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

inject a chemical to stop the organ and preserve it in the ice chest for the trip home.

Once a heart is harvested, it's a race against time. A heart can stay fresh in the cooler for 4 to 6 hours before it starts to deteriorate. Because of this constraint, doctors can't travel too far to heart-hunt.

It's been done this way for more than four decades, ever since the first U.S. heart transplant was performed on Dec. 6, 1967.

Research has shown that the longer it takes to remove a heart and transplant it, the greater the patient's chance of death or heart disease.

But what if a heart could beat on its own after removal from a cadaver? It may sound a bit macabre, more like an Edgar Allan Poe story. The new high-tech heart box circulates blood from the donor to the heart so that it continues throbbing while in transit from hospital to hospital.

Based on some success overseas, the University of California, Los Angeles is currently heading an experiment along with several other schools that compares the safety and effectiveness of the new preservation method versus the standard cooler.

If the new technology succeeds in preserving hearts longer, it could change the field, experts say.

No longer will patients be limited by location. Doctors could make cross-country heart runs without worrying about how long it takes. Hearts are now given first to people on the waiting list who live near where the donor is hospitalized. If there's no match, then the circle widens until a recipient is found.

"The rush factor will be taken out. I can go all the way to the West Coast to get a heart," said Dr. Bruce Rosengard of Massachusetts General Hospital, who performed the first beating heart transplant in the United Kingdom in 2006. It may also potentially help ease the organ shortage crisis. Some 3,000 Americans are currently on the heart transplant waiting list. Last year, 359 died waiting for a heart — almost one person a day.

The thinking is that hearts may be in better condition if they're kept beating instead of being cooled in ice. And if hearts can be monitored outside the body, proponents say this may help increase the organ pool by allowing less-than-perfect hearts to be transplanted.

Ybarra's surgery began like any other. The call came in to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center shortly before 4 p.m. on Aug. 24. There is a heart available. Do you have a match?

The transplant team dialed Ybarra. Her lupus, an immune system disease in which the body attacks its own organs, had ravaged her heart, leaving it enlarged and weak. She desperately needed a transplant.

The following day, a brigade of doctors and technicians set off before dawn by limo to the Van Nuys Airport to board a private jet to the donor

hospital in the Palm Springs area east of Los Angeles.

Since Ybarra signed up to be part of the beating heart experiment, she had a 50-50 chance of having the new operation.

Before the team left, a nurse practitioner drew a card at random: Ybarra was getting the experimental heart transplant. The doctors arrived at the donor hospital at 6:20 a.m. and cut open the patient's chest an hour later. After examining the heart, they stopped it to remove it. Instead of packing the heart on ice, doctors transferred it to a box filled with blood and nutrients to revive it. The box was then tucked inside a portable machine for transport. On the way back to UCLA, the heart was closely checked to make sure it was stable.

In the meantime, Ybarra was wheeled into the operating room and put under. She was placed on a heart-lung machine as doctors took out her failing heart. The new one was ticking nearby. Surgeons re-stopped the donor heart and sewed it into Ybarra. As her own blood coursed through, it began to pound.

All told, the donated heart had been beating in the box for a little over three hours.

If a heart can survive outside the body longer than the current limit, heart transplants may someday be less an emergency procedure and more like an appointment that can be scheduled — a convenience for both patients and doctors. "If you knew an organ could be preserved, instead of doing a transplant at 3 a.m., you can push it back to 6 a.m.," said UCLA's Dr. Richard Shemin, who performed Ybarra's operation on his 39th wedding anniversary.

The world's first beating heart transplant was performed in Germany in 2006, using an organ box invented by

TransMedics Inc., a private medical device company in Andover, Mass., as part of a multi-center study in Europe. The company followed up with a pilot study in the U.S. It is currently funding the UCLA-led experiment, which will enroll 128 patients nationwide, randomly chosen to get a beating heart transplant or the traditional kind.

About 100 patients, mostly in Europe, have had a beating heart transplant, according to TransMedics.

Early signs from two European experiments involving 54 patients are encouraging. There has been 97 percent survival a month after the operation and few episodes of rejection and heart-related complications. But since there were no comparison groups in either study, it's impossible to know whether a beating heart transplant is actually better.

The current U.S. study is the first to test the methods head-to-head.

Doctors admit some patients are spooked by the idea of a heart beating on its own before the transplant.

"It's very difficult to remedy their anxiety. But when you think about it, the human heart was never meant to be in a cooler on ice," said lead investigator Dr. Abbas Ardehali of UCLA. TransMedics paid his travel expenses to a medical meeting, but he does not have other financial ties to the company.

Transplant doctors with no connection to the research note that the current system works despite the antiquated way hearts are carted around. Before beating heart transplants can be routine, researchers must not only prove that the technology can preserve hearts better and longer, but that recipients also have improved survival and health than if they had a regular heart transplant. □



# Could 'Love Hormone' Oxytocin Cure Our Ills?

Rachael Rettner

In recent years, we've been bombarded with studies about the hormone oxytocin - researchers have demonstrated it increases trust and helps aid in social bonding. It has even garnered a reputation as the "love hormone." But what good is it for? Despite all these findings, the hormone's medical use remains limited to obstetrics - it is used to induce labor and aid in breastfeeding. But researchers are now trying to apply these findings, and are investigating oxytocin as a treatment for psychiatric illnesses. They say its unique ability to adjust our wiring could remedy symptoms of schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anxiety, and improve social abilities among those with autism.

A number of oxytocin studies have even reached the stage of clinical trials - which test the effectiveness and safety of a substance before it can become an approved drug - with promising findings.

"The idea of augmenting ... the way we connect to and with each other, would just be so helpful for so many people," said Dr. Kai MacDonald, an adjunct professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, who has studied oxytocin as a treatment for schizophrenia.

However, the results so far, while hopeful, have not been "earthshaking," MacDonald said.

There are hurdles to such research. Because oxytocin is a large molecule, it doesn't cross from the bloodstream into the brain very easily. It is also rapidly degraded in both the stomach and the blood.

Also, researchers don't know how big doses need to be, or how frequently it should be given to have a meaningful impact, MacDonald told MyHealthNewsDaily. Figuring out such dosing can be difficult. Still, "if we could do it with any degree of precision, that would be a lovely therapeutic venue," MacDonald said.

## What is oxytocin?

Oxytocin is a hormone released by the pituitary gland that affects both the body and the brain. In the human body, it facilitates contractions of the uterus during labor and helps release milk during breastfeeding.

The hormone affects social interactions in a number of mammals, from mice and moles to dogs and monkeys, MacDonald said. For example, studies have shown that mice given oxytocin will huddle together, and monkeys given the hormone will spend longer grooming each other.

A barrage of studies over the last decade has indicated it has social effects on people as well. One study found a nasal spray of oxytocin - a frequently used way to deliver the hormone, because it provides a direct route to the brain - made people more trusting. Participants were more willing to hand over money in an experimental game than those not given the spray.

Other researchers gave men oxytocin and found they more frequently looked to the eye region when shown pictures of human faces. People look to the eyes to read another's emotional state and trustworthiness, MacDonald said. [Related: 11 Interesting

## Effects of Oxytocin]

It's not clear that people who take oxytocin feel any different, MacDonald said. It may be that it acts subtly to change behavior or how we process social information, he said. Though you can buy the hormone on websites that sell what they claim is an oxytocin nasal spray, whether it actually works is a different story. The claims need scientific scrutiny, a process still in its infancy, MacDonald said.

## Under investigation

Oxytocin has not been approved to treat any psychiatric disorder, but evidence that it may be effective is building. A small study published Oct. 1 in the journal Biological Psychiatry found that patients with schizophrenia who took oxytocin for three weeks along with their regular antipsychotic medication improved in their symptoms and hallucinated less than those who took a placebo with their antipsychotic.

*Continued on Next Page*

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## LOVE HORMONE

*Continued from Previous Page*

While there were only 15 patients and the findings are preliminary, the results suggest oxytocin could treat patients with schizophrenia whose symptoms are not fully alleviated by their antipsychotics, said study researcher David Feifel, also of UCSD.

“The field of treating schizophrenia is kind of at an impasse,” Feifel told MyHealthNewsDaily. “All our drugs that we have to date work through the same mechanisms as they did when antipsychotic drugs were first discovered 50 years ago,” he said. “We are in desperate need of novel mechanisms that will improve symptoms through a different pathway, and oxytocin clearly is a novel mechanism.”

Considering oxytocin’s social effects, it makes sense to hypothesize it could treat autism, a condition characterized by having trouble interacting with others. And researchers have shown people with autism naturally have lower levels of oxytocin than those without autism.

A study published in 2007 in Biological Psychiatry found people with autism given oxytocin were able to determine the emotional tone of speech more consistently than those given a placebo.

Studies on other disorders have shown more mixed results.

A paper published last year in the journal Psychoneuroendocrinology involving patients with social anxiety disorder found that oxytocin improved participants’ self-image when they gave a speech. However, after five weeks of treatment, which also included teaching the patients to confront their social fears, those given oxytocin did no better than patients given the placebo.

Oxytocin is also being tested in clinical trials as a treatment for depression, borderline personality disorder and alcohol withdrawal.

### How does oxytocin work?

One hypothesis is that oxytocin dampens the activity of the brain’s fear center, the amygdala, thereby easing stress and anxiety.

A decline in anxiety could “allow people to attend to the social cues maybe they normally would avoid,” said Jennifer Bartz, a professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, who is conducting a clinical trial testing oxytocin as a therapy for autism. There is evidence people with autism experience anxiety in social situations, she said.

Because of oxytocin’s proposed blunting effects on the amygdala’s activity, scientists have also hypothesized it would help those with PTSD, which

is a disorder of fear, said Miranda Olff, head of the Center for Psychological Trauma at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In PTSD, the brain “still gives the fear response as if people are back in that situation again,” she said.

Olff is testing oxytocin’s use in patients with PTSD in addition to standard therapies.

“Adding another biological component to this intervention might speed up recovery, or might increase the number of patients that respond to treatment at all,” Olff said.

And oxytocin’s trust effect could help those with schizophrenia, making them less paranoid, Feifel said.

Scientists don’t know how much oxytocin goes into the brain when it is administered as a spray, or whether it even gets there, Feifel said. There is no way to see the hormone in the brain. But the effects it produces - such as a reduction in hallucinations - would require brain changes, so researchers have reason to believe it reaches the brain, he said.

It’s also possible that an oxytocin dose simply triggers the brain to make more of it, MacDonald said.

### Future research

While oxytocin’s effects so far have been subtle rather than drastic, it could still become an important therapy. MacDonald said that most studies have looked at effects on patients after only a single dose. If Prozac, the widely-prescribed antidepressant, were administered that way, its effects would seem more subtle as well, he said.

The side effects of oxytocin have so far been benign, MacDonald said. But while it’s something the body produces naturally, researchers don’t know whether upping the body’s natural amount, or giving it over long periods of time, could ultimately be harmful.

It also remains to be seen whether oxytocin affects men and women differently. It may present health risks to women because of its role in birth - inducing contractions of the uterus. Most studies to date have been conducted in men.

Besides mental disorders, researchers are investigating oxytocin’s potential benefit for a number of other ailments, including headaches, constipation and skin damage.

For those who think they might benefit from an oxytocin boost, MacDonald noted that you don’t need a spray to prompt the hormone’s production. “Given that some of the things that are suspected of triggering oxytocin - massage, sex, touch, eye contact - given that those are uniformly likable, it’s hard not to recommend them,” he said. □

# Are Mystery Clouds of Venus a Warning Sign for Earth’s Climate Battle?

Mysterious clouds discovered on Venus are not only helping scientists learn more about Earth’s closest planetary neighbor, they also serve as a cautionary tale for one proposed method of combating climate change on our own planet.

The peculiar sulfur dioxide clouds of Venus have perplexed scientists since they were first discovered in 2008 by the European Space Agency’s Venus Express spacecraft.

Now, computer simulations made by Xi Zhang, a graduate student in the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif., may explain these high-altitude clouds. [Photos: Beneath the Clouds of Venus]

The study may also mean that one idea for addressing global warming on Earth - injecting sulfur droplets into Earth’s atmosphere - may not be as effective as previously thought, researchers said.

Sulfuric acid in Venus air Zhang and colleagues from the U.S., France and Taiwan show that some sulfuric acid droplets may evaporate at high altitudes, freeing gaseous sulfuric acid that is then broken apart by sunlight, which in turn releases sulfur dioxide gas. Venus is blanketed in clouds of sulfuric acid that obscure our view of the planet’s surface. These clouds typically form at altitudes of about 30 to 40 miles (50 to 70 kilometers), when sulfur dioxide from volcanic

activity combines with water vapor to form droplets of sulfuric acid.

At elevations higher than approximately 43 miles (70 km), any remaining sulfur dioxide should be rapidly destroyed by exposure to intense solar radiation at such altitudes. So, when Venus Express detected a layer of sulfur dioxide at altitudes of about 56 to 68 miles (90 to 110 km), it left scientists scratching their heads.

“We had not expected the high-altitude sulfur layer, but now we can explain our measurements,” said Håkan Svedhem, ESA project scientist for Venus Express. “However, the new findings also mean that the atmospheric sulfur cycle is more complicated than we thought.”

Warning sign for Earth climate fixes?

While the findings shed light on the nature of Venus’ hellish atmosphere, they may also disprove the effectiveness of one suggested technique for mitigating climate change on Earth.

Nobel prize winner Paul Crutzen recently advocated injecting artificially large quantities of sulfur dioxide into Earth’s atmosphere at altitudes of around 12 miles (20 km), to counteract the effects of global warming from increased greenhouse gases.

The proposal stemmed from observations of the aftermath from powerful volcanic eruptions. In particular, the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines shot deposits of sulfur dioxide into Earth’s atmosphere. Reaching an altitude of 12 miles (20 km), the gas formed small droplets of concentrated sulfuric acid, similar to those found in the clouds on Venus.

These clouds then spread around Earth, and the droplets created a layer of haze that reflected some of the sun’s rays back into space, which cooled the whole planet by approximately 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit (0.5 degrees Celsius). In light of these new findings, injecting sulfur droplets into Earth’s atmosphere may not be as effective a method of battling climate change as once thought. For one, it is not known how quickly the initially protective haze will be converted back into gaseous sulfuric acid, which is transparent and allows the sun’s rays to pass through. □

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# Estafadores intentan aprovechar inundaciones en Venezuela

CARACAS (AP) - Estafadores intentan aprovechar las inundaciones que han dejado decenas de muertos y miles de desamparados, al presentarse como víctimas de las lluvias torrenciales para tratar de obtener las viviendas que ofrece el gobierno.

Jacqueline Farías, una funcionaria designada por el presidente Hugo Chávez para gobernar la capital, condenó a los inescrupulosos el sábado. “En los refugios deben estar aquellas personas cuyas casas se están cayendo o están en peligro de caerse”, dijo en un contacto con la televisora estatal VTV.

“Hacemos también un llamado a la conciencia, aquellas personas que por necesitar una vivienda mas no están en riesgo se presentan en los refugios y están quitándoles el espacio para proteger a las personas que sí están en riesgo”, añadió, sin entrar en detalles. Las inundaciones y aludes provocados por las lluvias intensas de las últimas

dos semanas han causado por lo menos 34 muertes y obligado a más de 5.000 personas a abandonar sus viviendas, dijo el ministro de Justicia, Tareck El Aissami, a la televisión estatal. Más de 74.000 personas se encuentran en 300 refugios del gobierno en todo el país, añadió.

El Aissami dijo que las víctimas más recientes fueron dos personas que murieron cuando un alud de barro enterró su auto en una carretera en el estado occidental del Táchira. El gobierno ha declarado un estado de emergencia en la capital y los estados Miranda, Vargas y Falcón, aunque las lluvias también afectaron los occidentales Zulia, Trujillo, Mérida y Táchira, según el ministro.

Las inundaciones obligan a Chávez a acelerar la construcción de viviendas para los sectores de menores recursos. A pesar de su enorme riqueza petrolera, Venezuela sufre un fuerte déficit de viviendas. Más de un millón de los



Un niño nada en una calle inundada de Río Chico, en el norte de Venezuela, sábado 4 de diciembre de 2010. (AP Foto/Fernando Llano)

28 millones de habitantes carecen de viviendas adecuadas, y millones más viven en barriadas peligrosas. En una edición de su columna “Las líneas de Chávez” publicada el sábado, el presidente aseguró: “Durante todos

estos días ha llovido como nunca antes en Venezuela.

Para que tengamos una idea, hemos alcanzado el doble del nivel pluviométrico del registrado en diciembre de 1999”. □

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## ARTIST OF THE MONTH **Peter Zwerver**



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